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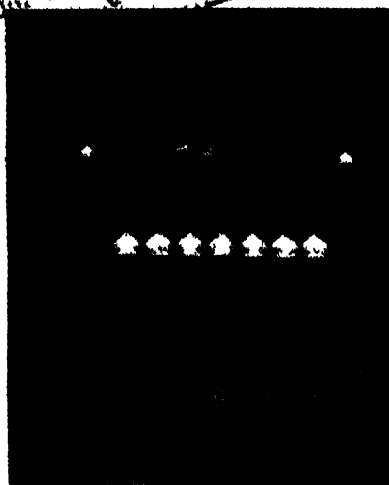
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THE COMPETITION  
**MASTER**

From the Desk of the

**Editor**



*Dear Masters,*

**T**his August 15th, India enters its fiftieth year as an independent nation. Anniversaries are a time to look back and also to look ahead and we do that in our cover story which is now in your hands. The Competition Master has been around for most of those years and enters its thirty-eighth year with this issue. During these years we have tried to help and guide students and provided information helpful for competitive examinations as well as personality development. We have also evolved and added new features to reflect the changing needs of our readers. We are happy that there is growing appreciation of our work, both in terms of letters received and the increasing circulation.

As usual, this annual issue contains extra 32 pages of information, with round-ups of current events, general knowledge and sports, apart from an index to the 37th volume. We are happy to announce, for the first time, a competition for our readers. We would like to know what India's independence means to you and are pleased to offer prizes for your effort. For details, turn to the cover story.

I would like take this opportunity to thank our readers for their continued support, as also all CM dealers and hawkers who ensure that your copy reaches you in time

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# Quagmire of Political Immorality

**W**e have entered the phase of coalition governments without having evolved a coalition culture. This culture can be summed up in a single phrase—collective leadership and a uniform effort to take the country forward to a mutually decided destination. Nothing of the sort exists. The corridors of power stink with an unfragrant odour of grab-and-go. This has been once again proved by the former Prime Minister's kin. And he and his kin are in the company of a galaxy of distinguished political actors cutting across the boundaries of the States! If the man in the street has started looking upon such governments as strumpets colouring their own trumpets, they cannot be faulted.

The previous coalition governments fell because of the weight of their own contradictions. The present one comprising more than a dozen political outfits may look a solid block but the very fact that they are a dozen or more adds to their inherent contradictions. Contradictions in politics mean one thing—destabilization. Ideologies clash, take a back seat, personal ambitions and venality surface and rule. High profile leaders, their inflated egos are bound to put the Prime Minister in a series of cleft situations. Political mismanagement begins to rule everybody around. The civil services join the scramble and the common man feels he has once again been cheated.

One striking feature of the present government (apart from scams it has inherited and has to handle) is its necessity of using the Congress crutches. Leaders now in the government, till yesterday were in the forefront calling Mr Rao names.

The Congress Party led by Jawaharlal Nehru and later by his 'plants'—Indira and Rajiv—provided continuity of administration. They also thrived on slogans. Nehru was hopelessly infatuated by socialism and secularism, Indira coined

"Garibi Hatao" and Rajiv's obsession was march to the 21st century. The nation benefitted from neither of these. Slogans cannot alter a nation's destiny. They can, at best, safeguard the fate of a faltering leadership. The political party that hands out such hollow slogans expresses its death-wish. It is also invaded by nonentities (leaders) involved in cases of bribery and corruption at gigantic scales. The nation has been watching a running scam serial under the Congress leadership in which the person occupying the highest administrative post has been alleged to be involved in more than one occasion. The scam serial

threatens to unfold more what has been revealed so far. The kith and kin of the leader had their hand in the national coffers. It is now no longer a matter of either speculation or mud-slinging by political rivals.

The stagnation, moral degeneration and an unashamed scramble for spoils was bound to throw up a new (not different) kind of leadership. This resulted in the surfacing of regional leaders who started strutting about the national political scene. Their vision was myopic and their sense of national commitment non-existent. This lot proved George Orwell's predictions in *Animal Farm* correct! We have now dozens of 'Squealers' in Parliament

who will never let the political phenomenon come to maturity. Their aims and ambitions are confined to mopping up the national coffers. Self before service is the motto.

The government is a rickety contraption. The Congress Party finds itself a political way when out of power—another danger signal. Added to this is yet another danger—the almost extinct political morality. In such a climate the 'sinners' suddenly turned 'saints' will soon show up in true colours. Thus, what the country is witnessing is not the struggle of a government to survive but a nation sinking into the quagmire of political immorality and venality.





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# READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of Rs 100 00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

## A REJOINDER

Apropos to your cover feature 'The Bumpy Road to Coalition Politics' published in your esteemed magazine in the July '96, issue wherein you have misled the readers with respect to the formation of A G P by stating that A G P was launched by agitating Guwahati students and that the A G P wants expulsion of non-Assamese and its victory has sent wave of apprehension among the non-Assamese about their future.

AGP was not launched by the agitated Guwahati students. Its birth and formation has a separate history of its own. Suffice it to say that all sections of the peace loving people of Assam were behind the formation of AGP.

It is true that the centre does not give proper attention for the development and welfare of Assam and the entire North East inspite of its vast natural resources and now after 48 years of our country's independence from the British Rule when India is entering into Global Economy by its liberalisation and open economy the Centre can not get rid of its responsibility for keeping this region backward from the rest of the country by its stoic indifference.

Again as acclaimed India being a federal country in its nature then where lies the wrong in asking for greater autonomy to the States. The same has been demanded by many other States including developed States.

Regarding the expulsion of non-Assamese from the State we are shocked to learn how this ill-motivated statement could cause harm and spread ill feelings towards the people of Assam. To speak the truth no other States of India can excel Assam with respect to the hospitality of the Assamese people.

AGP's demand is to identify illegal

immigrants and expulsion of these immigrants from our country and scrapping the IMDT Act. We would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned because this problem involves the country's security and sovereignty.

Lalan Prasad Thakuria  
Guwahati

## TIGHT ROPE WALK FOR INDIA

With a coalition government our leaders will be more interested in political appeasement and survival rather than taking up developmental work for the country. The solution to this can be a national government. A government by consensus will any day be better than a government by coalition.

Bishnu Ranjan Saikia  
Sontpur Assam

Proliferation of parties confuse people. This should be controlled. At the national level there should be only two or three candidates for the post of Prime Minister. A system like the American Presidential system may ultimately be better for our country.

Basab Mukherjee  
Burrpur West Bengal

The real winner of the last elections is T N Seshan. Because of him the elections could be held peacefully. With people like him at the helm India's image will certainly improve.

Chudasama Mitesh L  
Junaqadhi Rajasthan

Political leaders from different parties and ideologies will only tug in different directions and are unlikely to succeed. I am reminded of the saying 'Too many crooks spoil the broth'.

B N Bose  
Calcutta

## IMPACT OF MNCs

We should have a clear policy for foreign investment in India. If MNCs are allowed to operate freely without any policy guidelines they will start dominating the country, like the Fast India Company. How soon have we forgotten Gandhiji's campaign against foreign goods?

Monica Dwivedi  
Lucknow

## HOW TO BE MODERN

Modernism is a tricky term. A truly modern society develops a critical mindset which retains traditional values and enriches them by taking the best elements of modernism. We should not lapse into prudery but at the same time not take up outer trappings of modernism consisting of free sex and taking alcoholic drinks.

M. Murshid Pasa  
Murshidabad, West Bengal

## DEMOCRACY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Indian democracy is today trying to adjust to the socio-economic conditions of the common people. The rise of regional parties shows that our democracy is now evolving from the grassroots.

Aditya Raj  
New Delhi

To frame a policy about MNCs we can take the example of Indonesia where the foreign company is allowed to start a fully owned company but must dilute the holdings in 15 to 20 years.

Anil Bansal  
Agra U.P.

The impact of MNCs on our country is not going to be good. Domestic industries are going to be wiped out. In coming times we will have to depend on MNCs for all our needs. I don't think that is a very good situation.

Dhirendra K. Mishra  
Gaya, Bihar

## REQUEST TO READERS

May be you have appeared in some competitive exams recently. We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. All those sending the original question papers will be suitably compensated and the original papers will be returned.

Editor

## ESSAY

# Variety is the Spice of Life

**N**OTHING is as dull and dreary as the uniformity of instincts and intuitions, ideas and innovation. If God expresses Himself in multiple ways and each expression is unique and unrivalled, man's concepts, concerns and considerations are equally multi-faceted and multi-coloured. It has been rightly said that variety is not only the spice of life but also its source, sustenance and splendour. The different shades that day and night emit with the rising and setting of sun, twinkling of stars, formation of clouds and their drift under the pressure of winds, indicate the rich feast of life both on earth and heaven and beyond. Human vitality of fancy and vigour of concrete action amply testify to the age-old fact that variety has been the boon and blessing of human existence since time immemorial.

Variety reflected in all creations and creatures is a rich tribute to the Master Craftsman who, though invisible, still remain highly impressive and expressive through his immense variety of flora and fauna in different parts of this planet, the earth. Each species sparkles in its own unique way and if one were lucky enough to visit all the museums and zoos of the world, the variety in arts and crafts, animals and birds, becomes too striking to inhale in one stroke.

To every aspect of life, variety offers both glamour and gaiety. Uniformity, as we all know, is the bane of all boredom and banality. It is due to the presence of many colours that the painter creates his own world of fantasy and fascination. A musician gives expression to various composi-

tions as a result of his varied moods and experiences. A singer differs from other due to the rare gift of variety in his voice and thus adds to the treasure trove of songs that have always haunted and enchanted the listeners. The creative world of artists and the constructive world of artisans would have lost much of its appeal and ecstasy if there have had been no variety.

On the natural plane, diverse landscapes spread like beautiful dots on the globe. Rivers and rivulets, mountain like a mosaic, deserts vast and wide, plain fields fluttering with multi-coloured crops, forests, parks, and other godly gifts manifest a rich feast of colours that has added exceptional charm to human life since ages. On the human plane, different languages, their idioms and phrases, varied dialects and their age-old folk tales and songs have enraptured the listeners, both rural as well as urban, beyond all expectations and exultation.

There are thousands of other monuments of different sizes and shapes, that have added meaning and interest to human life. The immortal works of writers of all hues, composers of music, inventors and discoverers, have made enormous contribution to the sum total of life, which otherwise, remains caught between mundane activities and uncertain rewards. Had the world been deprived of variety, life would have been a big dilemma to live and suffer. From the smallest to the biggest, each perception has to be imbued with variety of approach and treatment. Consistency of

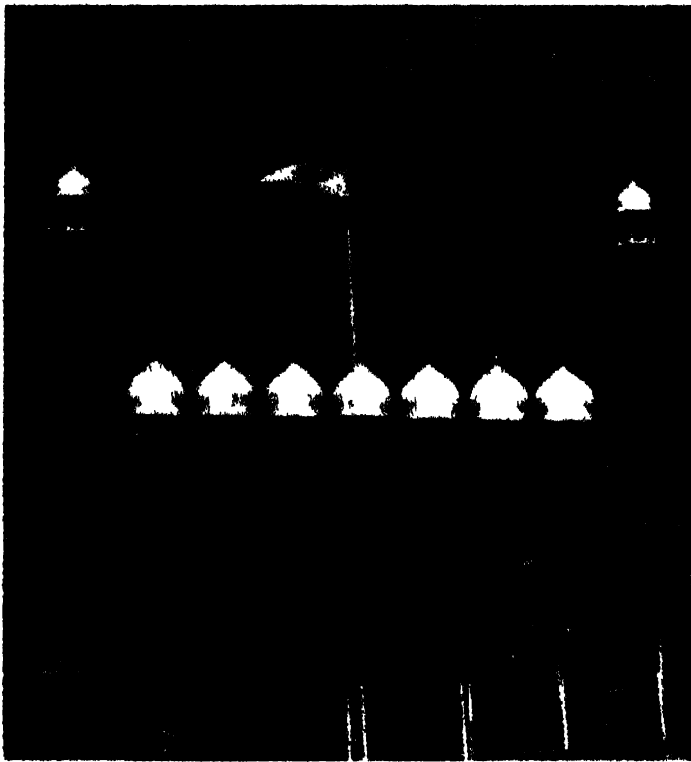
thought may be good in some cases but, more often than not, the domain of spiritual quest, the search for means to achieve emancipation, have always been different and varied, both in tone and twist.

In matters of food and clothing, lack of variety breeds contempt for both. '*Man does not live by bread alone*' but still it is a hard fact of life that variety of dishes that are spread on the dining table, bring water to everybody's mouth. The real taste of pudding lies in its eating. Similarly the real thrill of joining a party is concealed in the variety of food preparations and drinks. In the world of dresses as well, variety of permutations and combinations in consonance with the times, makes living an interesting and impressive experience.

All said and done, even God has a variety of names. In order to reach Him, a number of religions and cults have come into existence. Just as various rivers make for the ocean to become a part and parcel of the original self, similarly different modes of prayers have been invented to attain the ultimate. The universe around us is the myriad manifestation of God's bountiful and inexhaustible wealth of colours, contours and curves in the shape of human beings, animals and birds, flowers and forests and what not. The spectrum of life contains in its bosom variety, vitality and vigour, always vibrant and voluptuous. Concept of life, without its varied facets and multi-coloured personality, is just unthinkable. Variety, indeed, sweetens the bitter cup of life and removes the sting that is inherent in all forms of existence.



# INDIA'S 50<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF



August 15, 1947 will mark the entry of a free India into the world. It is a day of great significance, but it is also a day of great challenges. The country that was born in 1947 is now 50 years old. It has grown from a small, poor, and divided land into a large, diverse, and powerful nation. It has achieved many things, but it still has a long way to go.

Our country is still a young nation. It has a long history, but it is still in the process of creating its own identity. It has a rich culture, but it is still in the process of defining its own values. It has a large population, but it is still in the process of providing for its needs. It has a bright future, but it is still in the process of realizing its potential. We must continue to work hard to build a better India for ourselves and for the world.

Anniversaries are a time of reflection, but if one is to make a statement about the state of the Republic of such a vast and diverse country like India, one is likely to make a mistake. Like blind men who touch different parts of an elephant and come to wrong conclusions, the country too is alive in many different aspects. There are indeed many Indias within our country and each is real. The golden jubilee year of our nation is perhaps a time to assess the different Indias and how they affect us.

One is a prosperous India, which has the wonderful cars, cellular phones and all the latest and best in the world. The society is distinctly modern, women match men in professionalism, the discotheques are full of smart young couples dancing the night away and five star hotels with their exorbitant prices are full to capacity. Who says India is poor?

But the other India is equally real, perhaps more so. A great many people live in poverty and are not able to get two square meals a day. Children labour in dangerous jobs in sub-human conditions to be able to support themselves and their families. The middle class, consisting of salaried employees, is busy saving for their children's education and if they have daughters, for their dowry. If the dowry is not enough, the girls are murdered in spite of the strict anti-dowry laws. Who says India is modern?

There is yet another India, a country to be proud

of, with achievements in science and defence, a strong sense of history and culture that insulates us from changes taking place. An India of the dreams of Jawaharlal Nehru or a place of Rabindranath Tagore "where the mind is without fear", and for all its faults, the world's largest democracy. Or is another India real, one inhabited by corrupt leaders, who use their sons to collect bribes while their own name remains clean? A country where the government, like everything else, is on sale, a shameless place?

Which India is real and which do we inhabit? Fifty years on, we find great gaps among the many nations existing within our own. Writers have commented on the seeming contradictions, which have only increased over the years. There is a generation which speaks English and uses American swear words. There is also a generation that still holds on to Indianness and feels proud of the country's culture and heritage.

One cannot help thinking that the years after independence have only increased the gap between those educated in Western thinking and those who see the past as a source of inspiration. The gap is a great one, but it is often bridged. People try to become like the prosperous elites, if not by legitimate means, by taking to bribes and corruption. Indeed, corruption has become a huge institution in India. Often, skeletons in cupboards tumble out, causing a crisis of confidence.

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## India: Vital Statistics

**Area:** 32,87,263 sq km

**Political divisions:** 26 States and 6 Union Territories.

**Population:** 843.93 million (1991 census), currently 940 million. **Density:** 267 per sq km

**Literacy:** 52.11% (Male: 63.86%, Female: 39.42%)

**Sex ratio:** 929 females per thousand male. **Life expectancy:** 61 years

**Urban Population:** 26%

**Rural Population:** 74% (1992)

**People per Doctor:** 2,272

**People per Telephone:** 100

**National Anthem:** *Jana gana mana*, by Rabindranath Tagore, first published in 1912

**National Song:** *Vande Matram* by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. It appeared in his novel *Anand Math* published in 1882

**National Animal:** Tiger

**National Bird:** Peacock

**National Flower:** Lotus

**Principal Religions:** Hindu 82%, Muslim 12%, Christian 2%, Sikh 2%.

## The Loss of Faith

**T**he loss of confidence is perhaps the single largest dilemma that Indians face. Old values and beliefs are debunked but there is no whole hearted acceptance of the Western way of life. Old institutions are constantly being downgraded. The freedom struggle is all but forgotten and people remember the Mahatma Gandhi of Richard Attenborough's film and fail to understand the real Gandhi. Criticising one of the greatest men India has had, has become a national hobby and there are no takers of his philosophy in his own land.

Nor do the present-day leaders inspire confidence.

The decline of the politician over the years can be described as: statesman to politician to rogue. Nehru and his contemporaries were statesmen, visionaries and thinkers. India gained in stature under their leadership. Mrs Gandhi was more of a politician and given to machinations. Nevertheless, India did gain in stature during her time too, as there were some remarkable gains. The green revolution resulted in self-sufficiency of grain and an ambiguous nuclear policy that kept the world on tenterhooks took shape. There was talk in Western capitals that India would emerge as the next superpower.

Instead, the country declined. Caste-based politics

and hijacking of leadership by manipulators led to a further erosion of faith. The nation wanted to believe in Rajiv Gandhi but his image of Mr Clean too eroded as the Bofors revelations implicated him. It was a transition period when the leader would become rogue, a trend exemplified in the next government. While Narasimha Rao faced charges of bribery and corruption, his ministers were like a bunch of spoilt schoolboys. The minister of environment reportedly wanted to divert a river to construct his cottage in the hills. The matronly Sheila Kaul wanted to stay on as governor even as charges against her mounted.

It seemed that there was no one who was clean, but if there were hopes that a new government would somehow be different, the hopes were soon quashed. In the Deve Gowda cabinet there were not only scandal-tainted ministers, but also criminal elements. Who and what are we to trust anymore? The people are at a unique dilemma that even an election cannot cleanse the leadership.

And this was only half the story. Many people believe that what is reported in the press hides as much as it reveals. The real disease is probably much larger and more loathsome. Is the country to blame if it is fast becoming a soft State where foreign companies rule the day? Today, it stands precariously between becoming a superpower and a banana republic. Which path it takes now depends on the quality of leadership it gets, and the scene is not very encouraging.

## Instant nirvana

**T**he loss of confidence is reflected in the way that society has reacted to changes. Spiritualism is vanishing and materialism is fast replacing the old values. If nirvana was a desirable object, it can easily be achieved today by buying a new car or an exorbitantly priced pair of sun glasses. A man is not known for his qualities or learning, but whether he has a cellular phone or a pager. In many places this materialism has reached ridiculous heights as in elitist schools, where children reportedly carry their cellular phones to their classes.

The materialism has affected society in more ways than mere showing off. In rich households the day is not complete without going to the club or a party. Modernism has come to mean drinking liquor and advocating free sex. Children do not get the attention they deserve and are often brought up by servants. It is perhaps no wonder that some people grow up disrespecting India and its heritage. The rate of teenage abortions has increased over the years as also the acceptability of making quick money, whatever the means.

In not so rich households, the pressures of materialism have led to enormous tensions. Social diseases like the dowry system fawns on materialism—marriage becomes just another way to acquire things. Instant nirvana is also obtained through godmen, who are revealed to be wheel-dealers having nothing to do with God.

Are all things becoming bad in society? Certainly not. Many things are changing for the better—there is growing prosperity at all levels and if government statistics are to be believed, poverty is 19% and declining. There is a growing demand for equality as education and economic status gain importance. There may be a perceived chasm between religions but attempts by extremist groups to incite communal fury have not succeeded. In Punjab and Kashmir attempts to divide communities have failed; if communal division was the purpose of the Mumbai blasts, that failed too. Literacy is up to 52%, people have the freedom to choose from many careers and there is more openness in society.

**Casteism:** While it may still be rigid in villages where caste-based murders and rapes take place even today, it is on the decline. In fact, differences on account of caste could well have vanished, had it not been for reservation of jobs and seats in educational institutions. This keeps the issue alive, at least for meritorious students who may be denied admission in favour of a scheduled caste candidate who may have barely got pass marks. Much heartburn is caused by this policy, which has resulted in ridiculous situations such as a candidate being given admission even though he got 1% marks. Many high caste youth try to get certificates showing that they belong to a scheduled caste in order to get benefits of reservations. In State-owned banks, insurance companies and even the Civil Service, employees become frustrated

as they cannot be promoted since they belong to the high castes whereas the lower castes have their promotions well protected.

So high is the resentment against the caste-based reservations that when the V.P. Singh government announced further benefits for the scheduled castes, youths across the country committed suicide by setting fire to themselves.

*The situation today is that while certain educated families belonging to the backward castes continue to extract benefits from the reservation policy, the poor in the villages even today must pay homage to the higher castes and bear injustices.*

The situation today is that while certain educated families belonging to the backward castes continue to extract benefits from the reservation policy, the poor in the villages even today must pay homage to the higher castes and bear injustices. Continuation of the reservation policy is likely to keep the awareness of castes alive and stand in the way of true equality.

Political leaders admit in private that the reservation policy has outlived its usefulness. But no political party has the courage to tackle the issue as all of them think in terms of vote banks and not of the national interest.

**Youth:** The youth of the country is certainly feeling let down. The sense of disillusionment is reflected in the

fact that most young people want to migrate to Western countries, given half a chance. The elite institutions of the country, like the IITs and IIMs are training people either to go abroad or to work in multinationals. In spite of their lofty objectives and very high investments of the taxpayer's money, these institutes are not contributing to India's development in any way.

newspaper reported that many young people regarded Harshad Mehta as their role model, and the get-rich-mentality has taken firm root in the nation's mentality.

That is indeed a serious shortcoming in the golden jubilee year of our country. From the hope of building a great India in 1947 to the feeling of apathy that pervades our campuses: the country has traversed a downward spiral in these years and not a single policy of the Human Resource Development ministry takes into account the mood of the youth. Why then complain of the brain drain?

**Women:** Another contradiction in India to be pondered over in the country's fiftieth year is the status of women. On the one hand, women are becoming independent and making their own careers. One can find women doctors and lawyers, pilots and police officers. In everyday life, the contribution of women has been increasing over the years.

But on the other hand, women are seen to be mere objects. Crimes against women are on the increase in practically every town in India. Sex scandals are exposed in small towns with alarming regularity. While Indian literature makes woman into a goddess, in modern India she is seen as a burden. In villages across the country, the female infant is killed mercilessly while in towns amniocentesis and ultrasound techniques are used to detect the sex of an unborn child. If the foetus is female, it is aborted. Some 35 million females have vanished

If admission to premier institutes was difficult to get earlier, privatising of education has resulted in the elites hijacking it for their benefit. In spite of the court's ruling that bans donations to colleges, institutes charge heavy fees under the guise of 'NRI quota', which has become another way of collecting huge sums of money. Normal admission fee has also been greatly increased, effectively keeping the children of the poor out of professional colleges.

Young people are caught between barriers of a caste system, which does not reward merit and hard work, and the donation system, which considers only the rich. It is no wonder that respect for the country is not very high in the minds of youth. A

in the country, which is reflected in the sex ratio, standing at 927 women per 1,000 males, and declining.

The society has not thought about this problem. Dowry makes a daughter a burden on families. Correctly defining the status of women in this scenario is impossible. If it is improving, as it is commonly believed, a way will have to be found to get families to treasure their girls. Merely winning international beauty shows says nothing for the majority of girls in our country, for whom mere survival is a battle.

**Population and poverty:** Two of the serious and neglected problems in India are that of population and poverty. The family planning programme lingers along and has been more or less a failure. Standing at 940 million, the population is all set to overtake that of China in the coming years. An offshoot of this is poverty. In districts in Orissa and Bihar, poverty reaches its nadir. Families survive on roots and barely get one square meal a day. In certain areas, people are forced to eat rats. The new economic policies are blatantly pro-rich and fail to do anything for the poor. The government's claim of declining poverty has been questioned in many quarters and the fact remains that the poor are nowhere in the calculations of the leaders.

## India: A Superpower?

Many people believe that India is a sleeping giant which will wake

up sometime in the future and emerge as a superpower. The country has missed the bus the first time: countries like Japan, Korea and Malaysia started about the same time or even later than India but have overtaken us in all aspects of development. Today, India neither has technological leadership nor can match the growth rates of South East Asian tigers.

While India has been averaging a GDP growth rate of about 5% commonly referred to as the Hindu rate of growth, Indonesia has reported a growth rate of 8.1%, Malaysia 8.8%, South Korea 6.8%, Thailand 8.5%. India's huge population is often blamed for its economic ills but China with a bigger population, has GDP growth rate of over 10%. In any case, the population is reflected in per capita figures and blaming it for all the ills of India is a bogus argument.

Far from becoming a superpower, India has not been able to remove the label of 'developing country' attached to it. Lack of clear thinking has resulted in India lagging behind much of Asia. China's economy has grown twice the rate of India's. Infant

mortality rate in India is twice that of China and about half the population is illiterate, compared to about one-fourth in China. China succeeds in throwing its weight in the international arena and often arm-twists a superpower like the USA, but India makes noises and is never taken seriously.

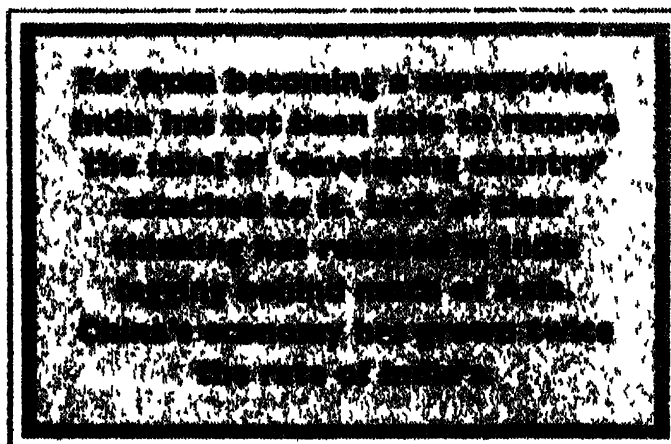
Much of India's failure has to do with its policies. It has been unable to harness the potential of its people. For example, an Indian usually goes abroad to work and make his fortune, which is evident in the huge numbers of prosperous NRIs spread all over the globe. Within India a person never has the freedom to work, thanks to a stifling reservation policy and social stigmas associated with certain kind of work. The government has been unable to do anything about the 'brain drain', a phrase that has come to symbolise our failure to provide avenues of work for our people. Rather than do something about it, almost every policymaker of the country has his sons settled abroad.

It is also argued that comparison with other countries may be faulty. For instance, if

China has high growth rates, it also has one of the most blemished human rights records. Thousands of people were killed and tortured during the so-called Cultural Revolution in China. People are shot for crimes such as stealing chicken. The Communist Party has an iron grip in China, suppressing people with torture and death. India, on the other hand, can well boast that it does no such thing. Its people are free and on numerous occasions have thrown out the leaders who had lost their trust.

Obviously, however, democracy cannot be an excuse for not realising the potential in India. Japan does not have a dictatorial regime but has raced ahead of India in practically all areas, in spite of being devastated by nuclear bombs. The challenge thus is to achieve high economic growth within the democratic structure of India. But it is a shame that the fiftieth year of our country is marked by the presence of foreign companies who have been allowed in to help us in our economic growth. Is it an admission that we have been unable to look after ourselves? If so, is democracy responsible for our inability?

**Liberalisation:** The non-performance of the economy may have less to do with democracy than with the model we chose to follow immediately after independence. Perhaps the ideals of socialism were noble ones, but all they delivered was a bloated and inefficient public sector and control by bureaucrats. Industrial development



## Tell us what you feel

What does India's independence mean to you? We would like to know your thoughts as your country enters its fiftieth year as an independent nation.

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We reserve the right to edit for reasons of clarity or space. **The last date of receipt of entries is August 30, 1996.** The decision of the Editor will be final and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

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was supposed to be managed by people who had no idea about how businesses were run. Years of mismanagement by bureaucrats showed up in chronically ill public companies and infrastructure that could not deliver. Cities were plagued by overcrowded public transport systems, there was an electricity shortage in most of the country and the financial sector was bogged down by the inefficient State-owned banks.

While the excuse of all this was population growth, there could be no excuse for inefficiency. Ironically, the country did not wake up to

this by itself but was forced by the World Bank, whom it approached for loans when a severe crisis hit India. As part of conditionalities for its loans, the IMF/World Bank wanted India to open up its economy. The country did that, in what was to be described as the single greatest achievement of the previous Congress government and its Finance Minister, Manmohan Singh. Soon, the country was flooded with foreign companies and brands.

Growth rate increased but doubts have persisted about the liberalisation programme and its benefits. If it

was such a great thing, why did the government wait for a crisis to develop? The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) raised doubts about the entry of multinational companies, which obviously did not come with any philanthropic motives. Foreign companies started buying Indian brands and there was a fear, perhaps not an unfounded one, that Indian Industry would be wiped out. In many countries where such a programme has been implemented, it had ended in disaster, causing wide societal and economic changes that drove the country to a debt trap.

Economists have a consensus that a Mexico-like situation will not arise in India. But nobody expected Mexico to collapse either. India today has a foreign debt of \$ 95 billion, the highest in the region. Another liberalised country, Guyana, had been forced to sell its timber wealth to foreign companies to pay off its debts. The country faces huge deforestation today.

There is a complete silence about such experiences. In the euphoria generated by the entry of foreign goods, the country forgot that real liberalisation should have been aimed at a programme that liberated people's initiative and gave them freedom to do what they pleased. By inviting foreign companies who bought out Indian companies, the country effectively destroyed what had been created over the years after independence. The responsibility of economic growth was silently handed over to multinational companies in what is being seen as a major achieve-

ment of the country.

**Soft State:** Increasingly, India is being taken to be a soft State in world politics. It has not taken up any major foreign policy initiatives over the years, nor has been able to provide a leadership in regional affairs. The SAARC was to have been an ideal forum for India to provide a leading role. The NAM was another area where India could exercise influence. Both have almost become irrelevant in world politics. In an influential forum like the ASEAN, India has nothing to do.

Not able to understand the changing global realities, India often paints itself in a position of no-consequence. It happened during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in which India made a noise but the world went ahead and signed the treaty. In other international meets, India is not able to provide a moral stand which could be expected from a country like ours.

There has also been a failure to deal with neighbours. When traditional enemies like Israel and the Arabs could start peace talks, India made no effort to start disarmament talks with Pakistan. Its neighbour, on the other hand kept up the Kashmir tirade, showing how it was mismanaged by the Indian government. With the result, it is today locked into an arms race which sucks its resources from developmental works. It is also locked into a wasteful and useless conflict in the Siachen when diplomacy could have solved the problem. Its achievement of Agni

was successfully capped under international pressure.

The failure of foreign policy perhaps is a result of petty politics played at the Centre, which leaves no place for chalking out strategies required in the global arena. It would not be wrong to say that the Indian people have been let down in the last fifty years by the leadership on the one hand and bureaucrats who have become self-serving individuals on the other.

## Rise of the committed individual

One reason why India has not been able to take hard decisions is that there has been an erosion of institutions that are supposed to uphold democratic and moral values. The Civil Service crawled when it was asked to bend. Frequent transfers and looking up to politicians for prized postings have resulted in a boneless civil service. The police has become a corrupt force, often protecting criminals and extracting bribes for everyday necessities. Justice is a nightmare for the common man as cases pile up for years in courts. The press shies away from investigative reporting and journalists often take bribes to print the press releases issued by companies and individuals. In almost all institutions, the decline is more than obvious.

It must, however, be said that democratic values in India are perhaps protected by some unknown force. In spite of erosion of values, history has shown that in

times of crisis, some institutions or individuals have risen in defence of the common man. If the courts were emasculated by Mrs Indira Gandhi, it was the press that took up the fight against the emergency. If democracy was hijacked by the criminal elements, a unique individual, T.N. Seshan, came to the forefront to use the very system in his fight against it. When the press failed in its duty to expose the hawala scandal, it was the Supreme Court that took up the fight and went as far as taking control of the CBI. The army may be another institution that has largely remained untouched by declining public morality.

Apart from this, there are countless little-known people working with unfailing zeal to make India a better place. All over India committed people are working to help the poor, protect the environment and help out during natural accidents and calamities. Though the voluntary sector has been hijacked by people who have their eyes on foreign donations and grants, a sort of a people's power has built up. Working silently, these people have become the real heroes of modern day India.

Why has this happened, especially in this time of national disillusionment? The answer must be because of our national character. Though declining, it would not be wrong to say that there is a bit of the fearless Gandhi in each one of us. It raises its head among people and institutions, even in these times of widespread corruption. It would be wrong to say that we have killed our conscience.

It is certainly easy to become disillusioned with life in India, but the fact is that even today we produce fighters who can stick their necks out.

## On the threshold of change

In its golden jubilee year, India stands at the threshold of change. The country has shaken off the ideology of 'mixed economy' that kept it bogged down for so long. At last, it has realised that socialism cannot work without prosperity.

It is easy to be disillusioned with so many things going wrong and widespread corruption that has come to plague the land. It is easy to see the failures in the various areas. In sports, the country usually makes a pathetic contribution in world events, exceptions granted. It has few scientific achievements to talk about and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) remains a bureaucratic structure. Interest in science in the country has declined. In forefront technologies like genetics, India is nowhere in the picture. But at the same time, its space programme has been a success and it also has one of the largest software facilities.

Indian literature, music and art is on the decline. Aping the West has become the full time occupation of many public personalities. In fact, there is tremendous politics in areas of public endeavour, pulling down India's performance.

In the golden jubilee year, can we say that the golden days are over for the

## Republic?

Though many people will certainly say yes, it would do well to ponder over the country that we have and the country that in 1947 we thought we would have. Certainly, many of the things that we see today were unthinkable at that time. But there is also the streak of honesty and achievement that runs through the nation.

There are two distinct points of view about the future of the country. The first is that the country is on the path to recovery. This is the government's viewpoint, endorsed by many well known people. For example, most newspapers find people wildly enthusiastic about the future of the country. A former managing director of Procter and Gamble found a "new confidence" in the air. Translated, this means that India is seeing a momentous happening, something no less important than the independence of the country. As for its culture, India has a tradition of assimilating influences but does not change itself, so there is no danger of it going the Western way.

The second viewpoint is that India might end up losing its very independence. If force was used then by the British to impose colonialisation, economic policies are used today by the Western world to take over a country. Many African and Latin American countries stand witness to this principle.

The choices are obviously not straight and simple. Whether the country pulls itself together in its fiftieth year and takes up a rebuilding effort, remains to be seen.



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# Habitat II: UN Conference on Human Settlements

*All over the world, there is rapid urbanisation as populations move from rural to urban areas. While in 1900 only five per cent of the world's population lived in cities, the figure is fast approaching 50 per cent today. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population could be living in cities.*

*This unlimited growth in urban population has not been without problems. There is pressure on infrastructure like housing and civic amenities and the urban poor live almost in sub-human conditions. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II or the City Summit, was held in Istanbul on June 3-14, 1996 and focused on the problem of urbanisation. It adopted the Habitat Agenda, a plan of action on issues of human settlements. With the holding of the conference, attention was focused on problems of human settlements and what could be done about them.*

*This feature describes the growth of the world's cities, explores why migration from rural areas takes place and what the Habitat II achieved. It also assesses the importance of the summit, held as it was after the much publicised UN conferences on women, environment and population. Conference fatigue was very much evident this time, but at the very least, the Istanbul conference may have brought the world somewhat closer to solving urban issues.*

**T**HERE is an explosive growth of population of cities all over the world, particularly the developing countries. Between 1950 and 1955, the number of cities with over 1 million population increased from 49 to 112 in the rich countries, while they increased from 34 to 213 in developing countries. Urban growth may have stabilised in the developed world but in poor countries there is no sign that it will abate.

In Mumbai, about 300 families are known to migrate everyday. Such huge migration undoubtedly puts a tremendous pressure on its civic amenities, as it does in other cities. Few households get clean and regular water supply, disease and crime are rampant, there are frequent power cuts and public transport creaks while carrying people much beyond its capacity. The National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) found that the lead level in air in Mumbai is over four times the safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation. The situation in other cities like Delhi and Calcutta is no different. There is huge unemployment, lack of housing and law and order problems.

The UN has estimated that by the year 2000 there will be 21 megacities in the world, with a population of 10 million or more. Except for Tokyo, New York and Los Angeles, 18 of the megacities will be in the developing world. Mumbai with 18.1 million people, Calcutta with 12.7 million and Delhi with 11.7 million people, will be included in the list.

### Migration from rural areas

**A**LL over the world, there is an exodus of people from villages to cities. Increasing population and decreasing resources in villages force families to move out and look for jobs in cities. It is indeed a failure of government policy that neglects rural areas, forcing such a situation. Unfortunately, not much thought has been given to this social phenomenon that has the potential of exploding if it is not checked.

Though the quality of life in such cities has deteriorated considerably, the charm of the cities is enough to entice

more and more people. Glamorous depiction in television and films of life in cities, together with poverty in villages, causes people to leave their homes. In many places, people have lost their traditional livelihoods as technology has given better substitutes. With the result, artisans and craftsmen, who otherwise could earn a living and reside in villages, are forced to migrate and search for menial jobs in cities. For others, migration becomes necessary as villages do not have educational and recreational facilities or even opportunities for career advancement.

Cities are, therefore, a necessary evil. The problem is acute in poor countries where practically no investments have been made in rural areas. In India, for example, the presence of the government is concentrated in cities like Delhi and Mumbai. Public sector organisations and even agencies dealing in rural development have their offices in cities. This leads to concentration of populations in the cities. Decentralisation would result in people living in smaller towns, but the decision to decentralise is a hard one to take as it leads to dilution of the powers of policymakers.

Practically no attempts have been made to stop the migration to cities. When dreams of the migrants cannot be met, there is frustration and violence. Huge disparities of incomes causes crime to rise; in cities across the world it is dangerous to wander out late. The situation is the same in African cities as it is in New York, where people have been known to have murdered for their expensive brand of shoes.

### Habitat II

**H**ABITAT means the kind of locality in which a being, plant animal or person, naturally grows and lives. According

# Use More Mind Power for More Success in Competitions



Dear friend,  
My name is Raj Bapna. In this letter, I have something very important to say that can help you greatly to get success in your exams and competitions. If you have 10 minutes, I request you to read this page about two courses that teach you how to study, how to use more mind power, how to improve your memory and much much more.

There is a no-risk 31-day money back guarantee. Just read this page now and it will make you a little better student.

Yogis have always known it and scientists have also discovered it now—that each person's mind is very powerful. That most people use only 10% of their mind power. That upto 90% of mind power remains hidden and un-used.

## How Will You Benefit

Before you read this page fully, I want to make it clear that my course cannot give success by magic.

But with my course, you can be more sure of success because you become better than 99% of students in the following 9 Critical Success Factors:

1. Good increase in your memory and concentration
2. Your effectiveness to read and learn will increase greatly
3. Your ability to study longer without getting tired (body or mind) or feeling sleepy will increase
4. You will experience that you are capable of achieving much more success than you currently do (even if you are already very good)
5. Small to moderate improvement in your intelligence
6. Set realistically high aims/goals and take you step by step on the road to achieve success
7. Improve writing, spelling, interview skills
8. Learn exam secrets to get more marks for what you have studied
9. Avoid big mistakes that can result in failure.

Suppose you improve only 5% in each, then total improvement is  $5 \times 9 = 45\%$ . I know you will improve 100% just in reading speed. So, your total improvement will be great for your success.

## Simple, Practical, Effective

My techniques are effective. They do not make you tired. And you can learn them fast. I teach no theory. Only the techniques that have proved effective for myself and other students.

You may find it difficult to fully understand the power and benefits of my course just by reading this page now. But, those who join my course will benefit greatly and avoid mistakes that can cause failure for others. If you do not believe me, then read what newspapers and journals say

The newspaper Times of India, says that from my course you learn "Simple, effective, practical techniques to improve overall intelligence and mind power. Even average student can easily understand." Similarly, the CA Journal says "To wake up students... to tackle the problems of study and life... to achieve fair degree of success."

## New All India Memory Record

One of our students R Caudally has set All India Memory Record on 1 Aug 1993. In interviews to many newspapers he said "The secret of my newly developed memory are postal courses *Mind Power Music* and *Mind Power Study Techniques* from the Mind Power Research Institute, Udaipur."

Before joining our courses, he was an average student and scored only 52.3% in High School Exam.

Let me ask you one question: If my course can help someone to set a new memory record, can it not help you to get more success in your exam?

## Improve Your Memory Quickly

Of many easy techniques, two are explained here.

**ONE.** The brain has two memory stores: short-term and long-term. Research shows that without revision, after 24 hours we remember only 18%. After 1 month only 5%. It clearly shows that we must revise. But, most students do not revise systematically, so much of their hard work is wasted. I teach you the powerful techniques "Systematic Revision" and "Daily Routine" so that you can revise and remember more in less time.

**TWO.** Scientific research has proved that for better memory, we should take rest and not study continuously for hours. You will learn my technique "Rest Routine" to get maximum benefit from the rest. This technique relaxes you, changes your brain waves, and puts you in a "learning state".

## Read Faster to Revise Faster

Everyone can learn to read and understand 300, or 500 or more words per minute. But, many of us read only about 100 words per minute. My "Finger Technique" will double your reading speed in 30 minutes. Your read slow if:

- If you read aloud or move lips
- If you do not read aloud but hear the sounds in your mind when you read
- If you read one word at a glance rather than reading many words at a glance
- If, without your knowledge, you read some words again and again.

My course will help you to overcome these habits.

The best use of reading faster is not to study new chapters for the first time, but to revise again and again quickly so that you can remember more in less time. The "Finger Technique" helped me to increase my reading speed from 72 to 1037 words per minute. Here is what two experts say about this technique:

"I am very happy to inform you that my son Ravi Anand increased his reading speed from 228 to surprisingly high 1818 words per minute. Thank you for your course" —Dr M L Singh, MBBS, MS, Eye Surgeon, Bharu

"Unbelievably, I improved my reading speed from 75 to 200 words per minute. My son improved his memory. He also improved his reading speed from 45 to 100" —Prof M Bhargava, PhD, Formerly in USA

## I Was Not Always Successful

I want you to know that I was not always highly successful as a student. You can call it luck or chance that I happened to discover a few techniques to study for success. These techniques changed my life and my marks improved in three years from 73.0% to 78.0%, 83.5%, 87.7%. Similarly, I did not get NTS scholarship in class 10 because I made a simple, stupid mistake. Then in class 11, I did not make the mistake and I got success in NTS.

Do you realize that if just a few techniques improved my success so much, what my complete course can do for your success? It now contains much much more than I used to get the success mentioned above.

Actually there are 2 ways to get success:

**One.** By chance, learn techniques for success yourself. Some people get success this way.

**Two.** Learn under the guidance of an able teacher who has been successful. In this way, you benefit from people's mistakes and teacher's experience. Many more people can get success this way. This is the reason why my course is so valuable.

You probably know that in competitions, just 1 or 2 more marks can turn failure into success. So, there is no limit to what my course can do for you

## What is Unique About It

My course combines 5000 year old Indian techniques with the latest scientific discoveries in brain research, nutrition, psychology, and music in America and other countries.

In USA, just before returning to India, I spent 1300 dollars (about Rs 42,000) to join two courses to learn 3 more mind power techniques. You will learn them in my course. My personal library has books and courses worth Rs 1,17,210. I have read, experimented, researched with all their techniques and included only the best ones into my course. These techniques are in addition to my own developed techniques in the course.

This course is protected by the Copyright Law, and so nobody can copy my material.

You may now realize that my course is very powerful. Use it for one week to prove to yourself.

## If You Are Taking Coaching

Good. It is better to take coaching than to risk failure. Just as a strong foundation helps to build a good building, my course helps you to make the best use of your coaching, tuition, and hard work.

## Used by Lakhs World-Wide

Lakhs and lakhs of people from every corner of India and from many parts of the world are benefiting everyday from my course. Consider just this simple fact: If a course from India is used even abroad, the course must be really good.

Do you understand fully that you can decide to order this course now to help you to get success and also to fulfill your parent's hopes and dreams? God's blessings and my best wishes are with you for your success.

## BIO-DATA

- B E, BITS Pilani M Tech, IIT Kharagpur. NTSE scholar. Rank 5 Raj School Board.
- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA. One is best selling *MS-DOS Masters* (cost \$27).
- Increased my reading speed from 72 to 1037 words per minute. Was a member of *Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA*.
- My first job as an engineer paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Just 7 years later, I earned 50 dollars per HOUR in USA as computer expert.
- At the peak of success, I returned to India to do something in our own country. Now, I spend my full time as a scientist to do mind power research.
- I also learnt French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board by hand, many Meditations, etc.

## Music for Success

Mind Power Music has powerful effects on your mind/brain. So, it is not for people with epilepsy, and anyone undergoing psychiatric or electro-therapy.

It is based on scientific research into how the mind works and how to program and control it for our own success. It has sounds from instruments and nature (river, birds). For details on how such relaxing music helps to learn faster, please read USA best-seller books "Superlearning" and "MegaBrain".

The Hidden-Messages in music bypass your conscious mind and go to your subconscious mind, and change your behaviour. Here is what people say:

"I have already purchased a course of Mind Power Music. Please send me 6 more for the use of my staff. Thank you" —Rector (Principal), Holy Rock School, Burslem, W.B.

"Very good. It relaxes my body and mind. It reduces the tension of my studies" —Dr Anju Bhatnagar, MBBS, Shrop

## Money-Back GUARANTEE

Order my course (code 806 or 713) and if you are not 100% satisfied, tear it into pieces and return in 31 days, and I will send MO for your money back (less Rs 20 for postage, handling). No questions will be asked.

If you order this month, I will also send a poster of *Bapna's Optical Illusion Technique for Concentration*. Keep it as free gift even if you return the course.

Are you thinking how I can give such a unique guarantee? It is because I know from experience that many people benefit on the first day and almost everyone benefits within one week, and so 31 days is more than enough to benefit greatly and to be fully satisfied.

## Time Does Not Wait for Anyone

It is now upto you. You can turn this page as if you did not even read it and miss this opportunity for more success. Or, you can join this course today.

Will the coming weeks and months make you a much better student by joining this course? Or, will you remain like many others and struggle for success? You decide.

## NOT SOLD IN INDIA

To celebrate 5th year of our research institute, we are now offering the following discount prices. Order without wait, because prices will increase in near future.

Name and Description	Code	Price + Postage
Mind Power Study Techniques	806	120+15
Mind Power Music: Memory and Concentration (cassette and book)	111	65+15 (was 110)
Japan's English Course for people who studied in non-English medium schools	852	220+15
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(1) Send the full price to get by Registered Post. OR  
(2) For VPP, the price is Rs 10 more than full price; send roughly half the amount as advance; pay remaining amount to the postman.

To order, go to the bank or post office, and quickly send a D.D. or M.O. in the name of M.P.R.I. payable at Udaipur-Rajasthan to:

Director, Mind Power Research Institute  
M-8 Mind Power Chambers, Sect 4 Highway  
Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313002

Please write your name & address at five (1) bottom of MO form OR (2) back of DD. Write in CAPITAL letters the item code, your name, PIN, address. Don't send TND or IPO. Allow 1-3 weeks for order processing. Udaipur jurisdiction only. TM-trademark. Copyright by MPRI

to the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), it also means socio-economic security, a safe and affordable shelter, health care, education, sanitation, transport and access to an adequate livelihood, apart from civil and political rights. The Habitat Conference was about all these issues.

The first Habitat conference was held in Vancouver twenty years ago. The second Habitat Conference in Istanbul brought 8,000 participants and 6,000 NGO together. An NGO forum was held simultaneously. Other meetings that took place were those of mayors, parliamentarians, town planners, architects and researchers. Istanbul was the ideal place to hold the conference as the city too gets migrants from all over Turkey and shares the same problems as of the cities in the rest of the world.

Urban population is increasing today at the rate of about 1 million per day, representing a silent social revolution that we have been unaware of and not done anything about. Increasing population combined with poverty and loss of traditional livelihoods are pushing people to cities to look for a better future. But cities too are overburdened with people and are unable to support the increasing numbers.

Many people who migrate to cities are forced to live in filth and degradation. Lacking homes, they live on pavements in makeshift tenements. As they do not have civic amenities, they defecate in the open. Rapid urbanisation has thus resulted in a dehumanisation process where people have no dignity or privacy.

Delegates of 171 nations signed the Istanbul declaration on June 15, 1996. It says, "We take this opportunity to endorse the goals of adequate shelter for all and making human settlements safer, healthier, more liveable, equitable, sustainable and more productive." However, housing was not made a right. The US and Indian governments argued that if housing was made a legal right, citizens might sue their governments to provide them with a free house. Resources for this are certainly not available. It remains to be seen whether governments will actu-

ally be able to translate this declaration into practice.

The housing crisis meanwhile has been growing. The UN estimates that 100 million people sleep outside with no shelter, or sleep in public buildings. If insecure or temporary shelters are included, the population of the world's homeless would be around 1 billion. The problem is not limited to poor countries only. In the 12 countries of the European Union, 1.8 million people sleep on the streets or in temporary shelters. In the US, this figure is around 3 million. Countries like the US thus waged a campaign to exclude any language that mentioned housing rights in the Habitat II document.

The Habitat Agenda was hammered out after negotiations spread over 10 days. The major issues of contention were clearing landmines, cleaning nuclear testing sites, settlements in occupied areas, sexual and reproductive health, definition of family and international cooperation. Reservations were expressed by 15 countries on issues of reproductive health, family and segregated human settlements.

The sections on reproductive health attracted the most objections as some feared that abortion and contraception were sneaking into the action plan, which would be against the interest of women.

### Conference fatigue

**T**HE Habitat conference came after UN conferences on children, human rights, population, environment and development. Conference fatigue, which results from holding too many mega conferences, was much in evidence. UN conferences usually have agendas which invariably have disputed text which is placed in brackets. The entire time of the delegates is thus spent in quibbling about which brackets to remove and how. In terms of actual work on the ground, such conferences achieve little.

For the first time, people other than NGOs and government officials were invited. Mayors, municipal bodies, builders and companies were present this time.

According to Secretary General of the Conference Wally N'Dow, the conference "recognised the changing global patterns of life, recognising that solutions also must be found at the local level." He said that the debate on the right to housing was a contentious one but consensus had been reached. While the declaration says that governments should facilitate housing development, they were certainly not being called upon to build homes for all citizens.

### Need for National Commitment

**W**HAT good do these conferences do? Apart from producing a sanitized text that is not legally binding, does Habitat II achieve anything for the world's homeless? The original concept of human settlements and their quality, which was the core of Habitat I held in 1976, seems to have been blurred by the rising urbanisation graph. Population growth had been the subject of a UN conference but little has been done about it. The Earth Summit (UNCED) had warned of a development model that ignored natural resources in pursuit of economic growth, but countries all over the world are pursuing the very same model. Similarly, the gains of the Women's Conference and the Social Summit have been few as women who are poor the world over, continue to toil with little relief.

While the Habitat II did not receive the coverage and excitement generated by the earlier UN conferences, it would be unwise to dismiss it as a conference of little consequence. It is argued that these conferences force national governments to take a closer look at their human development programmes and come out with target-oriented reports. Often, political commitment is lacking. For example, former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao said he would set up a Social Development Commission after the Social Summit; it was soon forgotten. Likewise, it remains to be seen whether the goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all prescribed by the City Summit will actually get any attention from the policy makers.

## ARTICLE

# Dimensions of Fiscal Crises in India

*Fiscal scenario in India has remained a continuous cause of concern during the past several years. Notwithstanding the structural reforms pursued by the government during the past several years, fiscal management of the country has remained a hot spot for the policy makers. India's growing internal debt and its servicing, growing administrative expenditure and high level of non-developmental expenditure have been some of the factors which are causing anxiety to the fiscal experts. Several measures have been taken during the recent years but no discernible success on this crisis has so far been witnessed.*

### Mixed Trends

**D**URING the year 1990-91, the fiscal deficit as percentage to the GDP reached the record level of 8.3 per cent. The government resolved to bring down this alarming figure in the years to come and some success was also achieved. For the year 1995-96 the fiscal deficit as percentage to the GDP was expected to be brought down to 5.5 per cent but it is estimated that fiscal deficit during the previous year was around 5.9 per cent of the GDP. It is proposed to bring it down to 5 per cent during the current financial year.

Non-plan expenditure of the Central government registered a decline from 14.4 per cent of the GDP in 1990-91 to 11.8 per cent of the GDP during 1995-96 as per the original budget estimates. But at the same time, plan expenditure also declined from 5.3 per cent to 4.6 per cent of the GDP during the same period. Central government debt, which peaked at 69.7 per cent of the GDP during 1993-94, was brought down marginally to 67 per cent during 1994-95. During the past about 5 years of

reforms, several tax reforms were also introduced, which resulted in rationalisation of tax structure and reduction of excessive tax rates, thereby resulting in more tax collections and widening of the taxation net. Reduction in the rates of indirect taxes like custom and excise duties has resulted in encouragement to trade and industry.

As a result of restructuring of the taxation system the percentage of direct taxes to the GDP has risen from 2.1 per cent in 1990-91 to 2.9 per cent of the GDP in 1995-96. At the same time, share of custom revenue declined from 3.9 per cent to 2.8 per cent during the period. During the year 1995-96 itself, collections from personal and corporate income tax are estimated to have register an increase of about 27 per cent and the excise and revenue collections are expected to grow by about 19 per cent over the previous year.

The rate of saving and capital formulation have, however, been declining marginally over the past 2-3 years. As per the estimates of the government, the gross capital formation which was marginally increasing during the past two years, is estimated to decline by 0.7 per cent of the GDP in 1995-96. Small savings as percentage of the GDP declined during the year 1994-95 and is further expected to decline during 1995-96 to a level of 22.8 per cent. Internal debt, on the other hand, is estimated to increase from 29 per cent of the GDP in 1994-95 to 29.4 per cent of the GDP in 1995-96.

### Crisis Ahead

**T**HE above trends, which were revealed by the Economic Survey 1995-96, do not, however, tell the entire story. The gov-

ernment may be taking the credit for controlling the fiscal deficit but if we have a look at the figures of fiscal deficit for the last 5 years, the claims of the government appear to be empty. Fiscal deficit which was 8.3 per cent of the GDP in 1990-91, came down to 5.9 per cent in 1991-92, followed by 5.7 per cent during the year that followed. But, in 1993-94 it again shot up to 7.5 per cent, only to be brought down to 6.5 per cent during the next financial year. As per latest estimates, the fiscal deficit may be 5.9 per cent during the previous year. This means that despite best of its efforts, the government has not been able to bring down the fiscal deficit to less than 5 per cent and during 1993-94, the deficit almost went out of control.

Several economists feel that curtailing the fiscal deficit by the government may result in reduced investment on the developmental activities in turn retarding the overall rate of growth. These fears are not unfounded. In its keenness to reduce the fiscal deficit, the government has not been able to control the non-plan expenditure and expenditure on interest payments, defence and administrative measures is increasing rapidly year after year, making the developmental expenditure a casualty.

After the year 1990-91 the Government has stepped up its internal borrowings. During the past few years, according to a report, the government borrowed to repay the debt and interest. In 1990-91 the government had to pay Rs 988 crore to repay the debt which matured that year. This liability is on the rise and between the 5-year period from 1990-91 to 1994-95 the average annual repayment of the principal was Rs 1,131 crore. The years ahead are going to be much more difficult on this

account. As per the maturity pattern of the current rupee loan of the Central government, during 1996-97 a huge sum of Rs 7,921 crore will be required to set off the matured debt, while this amount would rise to Rs 9,890 crore in 1998-99 and to an exorbitant Rs 12,353 crore in 1999-2000. After this year, the figure is expected to hover around the same figure upto the next six years. All these projections are based on the assumption that there would be no more internal borrowings by the government after 1996-97. If the borrowings do take place, as is expected, the debt repayment may rise accordingly. In other words, rapidly growing debt repayment burden would put additional pressure on the fiscal deficit and it may be difficult for any government to contain this figure below 10 per cent of the GDP during the year 1999-2000.

Interest repayment is another area for concern. More than one third of the revenues of the Central government are sapped up by the interest repayment every year and in absolute terms, this liability is going to increase appreciably during the years to come. With about 10 per cent of the revenues going for payment of salaries of the Central government and about 25 per cent for defence preparedness, the government is left with very little after paying the share of the State governments out of its revenue. The government would, thus, hardly be left with anything to finance its central plan, pay for food and fertilizer subsidies and other administrative expenses. The only option left would be more borrowings, heavier deficits and, may be, further disinvestment of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Efforts would also need to be made to curtail the non-plan and administrative expenditure.

It is required that the government needs to the food, fertilizer and export subsidies be reduced in a phased manner. These subsidies constitute over 10 per cent of the annual revenues of the State. Efforts were made in the past to reduce the fertilizer subsidies but in vain. Some steps in this direction are required now. Reduction in food subsidies should, however, ensure that the weaker sections of the society do not suffer. Hence, rather than

universal, selective coverage of population under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is called for, which would reduce drastically the expenditure on food subsidies. It sounds absurd that even an income tax payee, or a person owing a bungalow and car is entitled to subsidised sugar, rice and edible oil.

Export subsidy is yet another area which needs attention. With the growth rate of exports hovering at around 20 per cent level, it is now time to slowly withdraw the incentives to the exporters in a phased manner, so that export growth sustains itself. Defence expenditure, however, is one area where no reduction is possible and in case tensions on the border increase, this expenditure may require to be jacked up considerably.

### State Finances

**W**HILE the deficit has not been quite controlled by the Union government the picture on the front of revenue deficit of all the State governments is also grim. While the Gross Fiscal Deficit of all the States is estimated to be about Rs 35000 crore during 1995-96, the revenue deficit also rose by about 36 per cent to Rs 10,462 crore during the same year. The share of revenue deficit in gross fiscal deficit of all States was estimated to increase to 30.6 per cent during 1995-96, as compared to 26.5 per cent during 1994-95.

Most of the above facts indicate the poor state of finances of the Union government and suggest the dimensions of fiscal crisis faced by the country. The position of the finances of the State governments is even worse and tends to aggravate the situation. Lack of fiscal discipline among the State governments is one of the areas of serious concern.

By end of March 1996, it was estimated that the total accumulation of debt of all the State governments, as per a report published in RBI Bulletin in December 1995, was at mind boggling sum of Rs 2,12,019 crore. The report on the "Finances of the State Governments" further reveals that interest payments during 1995-96 were as high as Rs 22,305 crore and ate up 16.3 per cent of the revenue receipts of the States,

as compared to 15.7 per cent during the year prior to that, and an annual average of 11 per cent during late eighties. High non-developmental expenditure by most of the State governments also poses a serious fiscal imbalance. Non-developmental expenditure, comprising of interest payments, salaries and pensions, accounted for 42.2 per cent of revenue receipts during 1995-96, while this percentage was 40.1 per cent during 1994-95 and as low as 29.8 per cent at an average, during the later part of eighties. Some of the State governments do not have enough revenues to pay the salaries of its employees and are dependent on unmindful borrowings and grants from the Central government. Such a situation cannot be allowed to be continued indefinitely and may spell disaster in the years to follow.

While most of the State governments do not make any effort to mobilise additional resources, their expenditure is rising day by day. Most of the State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are running in losses year after year and acting as a constant drain on the exchequer. All this calls for increasing need for further borrowing. The total debt and the existing liabilities on account of interest payment are already quite high and it appears that these liabilities would continue to rise for many years to come, pushing most of the State governments in a vicious debt trap.

### Conclusion

**I**T is apparent that a serious fiscal crisis looms large over India and if quick and effective corrective measures are not taken, it may become too late. Restricting the tendency for excessive borrowing, increasing the additional resource mobilisation, curbing the wasteful expenditure and rapid privatisation of public sector may be some of the measures which may help in controlling the impending fiscal disaster. Next one decade is likely to be very crucial for debt and interest repayment and only artful fiscal management during this period will result in tiding over the crisis.

## DEBATE; DISCUSSION

# Should There be Prohibition?

*From July 1, 1996, Haryana joined Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh among the States which have prohibition, making it a hot subject of debate once again. The State's tourism and liquor industry says that it is a bad decision since it would lead to a great loss of revenue and jobs. On the other hand, the evils of unrestricted consumption of hard drinks are all too evident. Families have been ruined, fatal accidents have taken the lives of people, while others have lost their fortunes under the influence of alcohol*

*Can a social evil be removed by a State's dictat? Does it impinge on personal freedom guaranteed by the Constitution? Does it lead to impoverishment of the State? There are many viewpoints to the debate. In this issue, we debate a topic which is being hotly debated these days: the pros and cons of prohibition*

**Mr A** Drinking alcohol is a social problem. Many people think it is a smart thing to do, others drink to get rid of tensions and worries. It is like a drug. It does not solve any problems but helps to forget life's worries. People spend their entire earnings on drinks, causing misery to their families. The State definitely has a responsibility towards its people. The Directive Principles of State Policy say that the State has an obligation to ensure better health for the citizens. The Constitution is also committed to prohibition. Article 47 says that the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption (except for medical purposes) of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health. There is, thus, nothing wrong in prohibition. People who argue against it want to protect their earnings and do not care about the harm caused by it.

**Mr B** I do not agree with you. Prohibition may look good on paper, but it should not be imposed in this manner. An imposition from above hardly solves problems. In States where prohibition has been introduced, liquor is still available in the black market. The poor have no option but to consume illicit liquor. This is often made in unhygienic conditions and many tragedies have taken place where people have lost their lives after drinking hooch or local brews. What is the point of prohibition then? Making it legal at least ensures that people get a safe product at reasonable price. Under prohibition, it is the poor who suffer since the rich can get the good brands but the poor is dependent on local brews. We have to be pragmatic and not get carried away by moral outbursts. States which have introduced prohibition are suffering huge deficits because they are losing out on revenues due to excise duties. There are also many people employed by the industry who would lose jobs if prohibition comes into force.

**Mr C** Let me take your argument further. If you say liquor will be available anyway and therefore prohibition should not be enforced, it can be extended to other things as well. It is like saying that thefts should be legalised because some people are going to steal anyway. If some people are going to drink anyway, should we disregard health of the majority? Taking your argument further, we should legalise everything such as prostitution, pornography, stealing, drugs and even murder because some people are going to do it anyway. It is a bogus argument. We

cannot sacrifice the safety of the majority because a few people will always want to do illegal things. If there is a ban, at least those people who lack the resources will not be able to consume it. Others will not get it too if enforcement is strict. The fact that liquor is available in the black market shows that our enforcement agencies are too lax and not that prohibition is a bad idea.

**Mr D** I agree with you entirely. All the arguments made for anti-prohibition seem to miss the point that if you extend it to other things, we will end up in anarchy. Yes, the State will lose a lot of money. But should the State make profits out of selling wrong things? The State should start selling drugs also in that case: it will make huge profits. The fact is that the State must draw the line somewhere and stop doing things that are injurious to health of people. It was wrong to start distilleries in India so we are facing the problem of stopping them now. Had we followed the Gandhian path and framed our policy based on moral values, we would not have had such a difficulty in enforcing prohibition. There are thousands of things that the States can do to cover up their deficits; earning revenues by selling alcohol is not the only way. The argument of employment protection is also unjustifiable, since though the trade may give employment to a few thousand people, it spoils the lives of lakhs of people. People who are employed in the trade can well find employment in other industries. It is better to take a hard decision now than try and protect the livelihood of a few thousand people for the sake of lakhs in the country.



**Mr E** Wait a minute, you are making a judgement too fast. Not everybody who drinks is addicted to alcohol. Many people drink just for pleasure and a few drinks add life to a party. It also helps people to relax and unwind. So you can't say that alcohol is a poison. I agree that the problem is with those who are addicted to it and cannot stop. It is necessary to help those people rather than impose blanket prohibition in the country.

**Mr A** There is no doubt that the addict needs help but I disagree that even social drinking should be allowed. Surely there are other ways of having a good party or to release tensions. The trouble with alcohol is that it is addictive. One may have a glass if he is tense, but the glasses begin to multiply as the tensions increase. I think the habit arises because we are not sure about ourselves. If we have our inner satisfaction, we do not need alcohol or any other drug as a release of tensions. One can play games or socialise with friends. People take recourse to alcohol because their lives have become too hollow. They do not do these things so there is a need for an external stimulant. I think prohibition might make them a little more social.

**Mr E** But you can't forget that drinking is a way to be social these days. You meet friends or conduct business over a drink. It is not an evil always. In the US, prohibition was enforced in 1920. Intoxicating drinks with an alcoholic content of more than 0.5 per cent were banned. The National Prohibition Act came to be known as the Volstead Act after Congressman Andrew Volstead who had introduced it. But it was found that people actually drank more during prohibition than before. Illegal bars and organised crime got involved in bootlegging. Due to widespread failure and disenchantment, the Act was repealed in 1933. I don't know why in India prohibition is being forced.

**Mr C** This question is easily answered. Drinking is not Indian culture, unlike other countries. Social drinking has started in recent years with Western influence. Among the poor, it is a great problem when a man spends his entire income on liquor, which is common. Women and children are the worst sufferers of alcohol. The woman has to run the house, so children are pulled out of school and sent to work. In many villages, women have staged *dharnas* to prevent liquor shops opening up. You can't ignore the problem. Don't forget that Bansi Lal has returned to power on this promise. So if prohibition is implemented now, we should accept it as a will of the people rather than complain about it. In democracy, we have to go by what the majority wants.

**Mr B** So we should control destructive drinking. In prohibition, we put a complete ban so people find ways to get over this ban. Instead of sudden bans, what should be done is to create awareness and restraint among the people. Self restraint is much better and effective than forced restraint. In Europe nobody forces you to drink and people refuse it if, for instance they are driving. Law enforcement is also strict so that nobody dares drive after drinking. If this kind of awareness is built up in India, the evils of destructive drinking can be eliminated. Unfortunately for political mileage these decisions are taken suddenly without long term thinking.

**Mr D** Awareness is a long drawn out process. Can we allow people to get drunk and ruin their lives till then? No. I think prohibition should be imposed and efforts made to make people aware. If it is found that people reach a certain level of maturity and freedom is not misused, prohibition can be removed in stages. Unfortunately today we are at a level where our people cannot be given freedom. Leave the poor, look at the way educated people behave with a bottle of liquor. They not only make a fool of themselves, but if they are

driving, are a risk to the lives of people. But prohibition should not be there in some States only. This will lead to smuggling and selling of liquor in the black market. The whole country should have a uniform policy.

**Mr E** I still think that our advocacy of prohibition arises out of our desire for a paternalistic government. But orders from the government seldom solve social problems. The government has not been able to get rid of dowry in spite of having strict laws against it. Child labour continues regardless of government dictats. If the government is such a failure on all fronts, I think, that prohibition may also fail. It may in fact lead to other evils, some of which have already been mentioned. The only thing that will happen is that the police will have more reasons to take bribes. Yes, if enforcement is strict and it is the will of the people, we accept prohibition. Slowly perhaps our society will become mature and people will be able to make choices on their own.

**Mr A** We have to actually look beyond ourselves. If we can take alcohol in moderation, that does not mean everyone else can too. We have to see what is good for the majority of the people. We cannot ignore the problems of addicts. You may say whatever else, but the fact is that for many people getting liquor will become difficult if there is prohibition. Many people will not have money to buy it in the black market. At least some people are thus saved. It is like this, many people cannot experiment with drugs because they are not freely available. The same logic applies to alcohol. If it is available in plenty, young and poor people can experiment with it with ease. At least that will stop. We must remember that we have to build a strong India, which cannot be done if people are given to bad habits. If we stop the temptation, certainly few people will give in to it.

## PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

# Maturity is Practical Wisdom

**M**ATURITY means ripeness. It can be ripeness in years which implies one's calendar years. However, real maturity has practically nothing to do with one's calendar years. A person at 60 can be more immature than one of 30. The latter may be more mature emotionally, mentally and intellectually.

Pitt the young was more mature at 20 than many of our politicians today are at the ripe age of 70! Coleridge has put it well, "Commonsense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom." Even if we do not replace the word wisdom with maturity, we are nearer home in understanding what maturity really means.

In other words, when we talk of maturity, we are, in fact, talking of practical wisdom. Practical wisdom entails so much that even a treatise may prove insufficient. Yet, there are certain basics (for the purpose of this column) which can be laid down in simple words from which anybody willing to sponge information can benefit. "Wisdom is the right use of knowledge but to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom", says Spurgeon.

Many young people, academically sound and having a string of degrees behind their name, fail to achieve their mark in life because they act sans practical wisdom. Arrogance, lack of tact and hasty decisions make them surrender their advantages. They convert their plus points into minus ones through immature approach.

Principles and ideals ought to be mixed with a subtle sense of discretion—the better part of valour.

**M**INU (not her real name) fell in love (she thought so) with a "junkie" who was on drugs, drank and smoked heavily. But she thought she was in "true love" and

she stuck to him. The boy ended as a delinquent. The girl was left with a permanent psychic wound. Had she substituted practical wisdom in place of sentiment, she would have not wasted precious years and emotions. To produce love for a person who does not deserve it is a hallmark of immaturity.

Unrealistic self-appraisal has led legions of young men and women to blind alleys in career. Some rate themselves too high, aim too high and fall on the face. Others aim too low and most of their real potential remains unused. A proper self-appraisal, meticulously framed objectives and followed with determination are the marks of maturity and hence of successful people. An opportunity grasped and used produces at least one more opportunity.

### Principles

**A**ND the principle of practical wisdom is that we must be interested in our own development. The secret of maturity or practical wisdom is to keep your feet firmly planted on ground even if your head is in the clouds!

Tragedies of many wasted lives arise from the unwillingness of people to become "ripe", no matter how old they live to be.

Practical wisdom shows itself in our relations with other people. The way we react to the social situation in which we find ourselves is its measure. People who have failed to grow up suffer unnecessary bitterness and frustration. They are difficult to live with, rarely making reliable friends and make others miserable.

What can you do to become practically wise or mature as you grow older? It is largely a question of attitudes: some to avoid, others to cultivate.

The practically wise person does not go out of his way to draw attention to himself. He is content with the notice he naturally attracts and does not expect a blue-eyed boy treatment. He does not feel left out of things when he is not the centre of attraction.

The impractical always wants to be in the limelight. He feels slighted if someone else is receiving more attention.

Do not expect to get your own way always. Make way for others. Put yourself in their place. See your own faults. To see fault in ourselves, however, is much harder. Who has not been angry at some time because he could not get his own way?

**A** similar immature reaction is to get bad-tempered when disappointed by circumstances. The train is late, for instance, leaving too little time to get to the cinema that evening. All the bad temper in the world will not alter the facts. It may relieve your feelings, but such an outlet is shunned by practically wise ones. They even laugh them away.

Avoid retaliating to rudeness. The world is full of people with deplorable manners. Old people often bully bus conductors, shop assistants and others. The young tend to disregard people's feelings because of their immature absorption in their own affairs.

When people are rude, whether intentionally like the old, or unintentionally like the young, take it in your stride. Recognise the weakness that lead to it and above all do not reply in the same coin.

Another mark of the unwise is of interrupting. Let people finish what they are saying, even if they are longwinded and wrong. You will have plenty of time for your say when they have finished. Your words will receive due attention.



Do not show strong likes or dislikes. The immature person is usually an extremist. He is violent in his opinions, whether for or against, and that makes him intolerant of others who think differently. He is a tyrant with a single idea!

The practical person stands up for his views by quietly going his own way with a minimum of fuss. The impractical wants to force his views and preferences on everybody else. Avoid this.

What is your reaction to criticism? Do not let it upset you. Learn to accept it quietly in a spirit of learning what you can. Much criticism is destructive. Do not fuss about it. Or stand on your dignity. Just smile to yourself and go on in your own way. Avoid showing resentment to criticism. Otherwise you play in the hands of your adversary.

**W**HEN in trouble, do not expect others to get you out of it. People will come forward and offer help on many occasions, but you should not expect it as a right. Accept no crutches. Stand on your

own feet. Depend on your own inner resources.

Make it a rule to fit in easily to whatever company you find yourself sharing. Expect to be treated the same as everyone else. Adapt yourself to the situation and the people without pulling a sour face.

Be your natural self. Do not try to impress or to act a part that strains your nature. The practical person knows that he is not in the centre of the world and he accepts that with grace.

Keep away from your own problems and worries in your conversation. Talk instead about what your companions are doing, hoping and planning. Be satisfied to occupy a proper place in the proceedings. The practical person knows that he is only at the centre of his own world, not of others.

**B**E persistent in the face of difficulties. Do not give up easily when things go wrong, or turn to friends for pity. Regard setbacks as a challenge. Learn from your mistakes. Come back fighting for another

try when there is a setback.

Keep going. Put aside tiredness, not being in the mood, and all the other excuses. Put your mind to the job in hand. You will overcome the tiredness or whatever it is and quickly become absorbed in the work. Like a true professional, get your commitments completed whether you feel like it or not.

It is immature to give way to self-pity and despair as soon as things go wrong. In the same way, keep level-headed when you have one big success. One swallow does not make a summer.

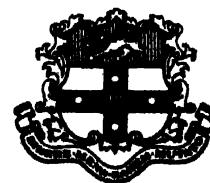
Keep even-tempered when others frustrate you or when circumstances are against you. Disregard the bad opinion of you which some may have. You cannot please everybody.

Stand up and defend yourself if need be. Expect to meet opposition, and recognise the right of others to think differently. Be willing to argue the point in a friendly way, maintaining your own view while allowing others to hold different a one.

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## THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

# August: Before and After Independence

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### Before Independence

In this section, besides having a recap on the 'Famine of 1943', we shall focus on 'Constitutional Reforms', 'Revolutionaries' and 'Quit India Movement'.

#### Famine

In the eastern India the famine of 1943 was at its worst in August. Streets in Calcutta presented a dismal picture. Dead bodies were found everywhere. While on August 19, 1943 over 400 persons were hospitalized in Calcutta, on August 21 as many as 600 persons were admitted to hospitals and 120 dead bodies were removed from the streets of Calcutta.

#### Constitutional Reforms

After the first World War some constitutional reforms did come India's way. The month of August was a witness to it. On August 20, 1917 E.S. Montague, Secretary of State for India, announced a scheme towards establishing responsible Government in India. The scheme envisaged increasing association of Indians in every branch of Administration. Later, on August 22, 1925 in the elections of Indian President for the Central Legislature Assembly, Vithalbhai Patel was elected against Sir Chimanlal. Thereafter on August 25, 1925 Pt Motilal Nehru became the first Indian to be elected as the President of the Lower House.

#### Revolutionaries

Indian Revolutionaries also registered some significant events in the month of August. On August 17, 1909 Madan Lal Dhingra died in the gallows at Pentonville Prison in London. On August 9, 1925 revolutionaries looted Kakori-bound train. The Hindustan Republican Army held its historic meet at Ferozeshah Kotla grounds on August 8, 1928. Revolutionaries from various parts of India assembled there and declared 'Independence and Socialism as

Indian Goal'.

#### Quit India Movement

Alarmed by Japanese army's advance in 1942, the British Government decided to win over the Indian leaders for getting active co-operation in 'war effort'. A mission was sent to India under the leadership of Sir Stafford Cripps. But it failed to impress upon Indian leaders. In turn, on August 8, 1942 the All India Congress Committee at Bombay endorsed the historic 'Quit India Resolution' asking the English to quit India. The British Government reacted immediately. On August 9, 1942 the All Congress Committees was declared unlawful and Congress leaders were arrested. Later, on August 21, 1942, the Ahmedabad Municipality was superseded for passing resolution supporting Quit India. Notably, on August 9, 1943 at Bangkok University Auditorium Subhash Chandra Bose held a meeting to commemorate the first Anniversary of Quit India. On the top of all, on August 15, 1947 Indian Dominion was born at 12 midnight.

#### After Independence

August has been quite an eventful month in the post independent history of India. For instance, Prime Minister Nehru formally launched NCC on August 14, 1963, India and Soviet Union signed the historic 20-year treaty on August 9, 1971, India's first Test Tube Baby, Harsha was born on August 6, 1986. In this section we shall focus on 'Kamraj Plan', 'DD's Tryst with August 15' and 'Cricket'.

#### Kamraj Plan

To give a boost to the organisational work, on August 8, 1963, the Congress Working Committee in general approved K. Kamraj's suggestion that 'some prominent Congressmen should resign

from ministerial post for the organisational work'. Next day the Committee decided to recommend the Kamraj Plan to the AICC and Pt. Nehru, without loss of any time, offered to resign as the Prime Minister. However, his offer was rejected. Thereafter, on August 24, Pt. Nehru recommended to the Congress Working Committee the resignations of Morarji Desai, Jagjivan Ram, S.K. Patil, B. Gopala Reddy and K.L. Shrivastava.

#### DD's Tryst with August 15

Television in India invariably got tremendous boost during the months of August, more so on August 15. It was on August 15, 1975 that a TV Station was inaugurated at Madras. Later on the same day in 1982 Doordarshan formally started regular transmission in colour and the INSAT-1A got operationalised for TV National Programmes. In 1984 the University Grants Commission started two daily educational programmes of an hour on DD. The Doordarshan also entered multi-channels era by launching Entertainment, Sports, Business and Current Affairs and Music channels on August 15, 1993.

#### Cricket

Annals of Indian cricket August has registered varying degree of records, in particular during 1993 visit to Sri Lanka. It was on August 1, 1993 that after defeating Sri Lanka by 235 runs, Indian cricketers registered their first over-seas win after 1986. During the same tour, on August 4, Md. Azharuddin, by captaining his 19th overseas-Test, shadowed Gavaskar's record of captaining 18 over-seas Tests. While on August 7, Vinod Kambli scored his 4th successive ton in 5 Tests, on August 8 Kapil Dev with his 4th delivery in his 2nd over, set the record for sending down maximum (27,115) deliveries in Tests.

# Questions on Social and Economic Problems

**Q.** The new government aims at reducing the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio down to four. Critics have pointed out the element of impossibility in their aims. Comment on the controversy and give arguments For and Against the desirability and feasibility of reducing the fiscal deficit.

**Ans.** The United Front Government aims at reducing the fiscal deficit down to four per cent of the GDP. However, this has been criticised by many who point out towards the impracticability of this aim. They have given the following arguments against the figure:

## Arguments Against

1. Bringing down fiscal deficit to four per cent of GDP is almost impossible. The interim budget of 1996-97 had projected a deficit of Rs 62,400 crore or 5 per cent of GDP. Bringing the deficit down to four per cent requires narrowing the fiscal gap by at least Rs 12000 crore. Moreover, if the UF government's programme on the food, education and poverty alleviation is to be implemented, the budget would have to find another Rs 5000 crore.

2. There is very little room for manoeuvring on expenditure. Even if the government were to cut down budgetary support to the PSUs, there still would be an increase in the government's capital spending. This is more so because several critical areas of infrastructure require massive infusion of public funds as the required private investment is not forthcoming.

3. There are a number of areas that have been spelt out by the government in keeping with its commitment to welfare schemes. Assuming that these have to be met within the boundary line of four per cent fiscal deficit, the implication is that revenue must multiply by at least 25 per

cent over the revised estimates for 1995-96.

*There are others who have pointed out towards various measures that the government can afford to take to bring down the fiscal deficit to four per cent. They say that there is nothing that would make it impossible for the figure to be attained. Thus these arguments are for the claim.*

## Arguments For

1. Larger subsidy to the poor through the PDS doesn't necessarily imply increased government expenditure on food subsidy. The problem is that for every rupee spent by the government, less than 20 paise reach the poor as subsidy through PDS cereals. Better targetting and efficiency can double this to 40 paise. One of the ways to do this would be to issue special cards to the poorest 30 per cent of the population and excluding others.

2. If loss-making Public Sector Units (PSUs) are privatised, the burden of losses can be reduced. These measures can help in attaining the goal of four per cent fiscal deficit.

3. There is scope for various tax reforms that can raise taxes. Reducing marginal tax rate to 30 per cent, abolishing all tax exemptions and mandatory prison for tax evaders would help in boosting income tax collections. Indirect tax collections can be increased by a national VAT.

There is no ideal number for the fiscal deficit. More important is the handling of finances. For example, while expenditure on various fronts can be reduced, education, health and infrastructure do require a lot of attention. Along with the attention towards the fiscal deficit, it is important to control the revenue deficit also. The revenue deficit eats up nearly 60 per cent of borrowings. Also, care has to be taken to prevent these measures from

being inflationary. India is quite inflation prone. Moreover, for fiscal deficit to be kept down, high growth is also required. This would mean increase in revenue receipts. The buoyancy in revenue can be used to keep the deficit down.

**Q.** There have been no concrete steps by the government to tackle the problem of regional imbalances. Give arguments For and Against this view.

**Ans.** India presents a picture of extreme regional variations in terms of the indicators of economic growth—per capita income, proportion of population living below the poverty line, percentage of urban to rural population etc. Regional imbalance is the co-existence of relatively developed and economically depressed States and even regions within each State. While some people hold the view that the government has been taking various steps over the years to tackle this problem, there are others who believe that all such policy measures have failed due to one reason or another. Thus, there are arguments both for and against the view expressed in the given statement.

## Arguments Against the view

It has been pointed out that over the years the government has taken various steps to tackle the problem of regional imbalances. Although the First Plan did not refer specifically to the problem of regional disparities, the Second and Third mentioned the necessity to locate basic industries in less developed areas (subject to technical and economical limitations) as means of achieving regional development. The Fourth Plan laid stress on identification of industrially backward areas on the basis of certain criteria like total per capita income, number of workers in factories per lakh of population, per capita annual consumption of electricity etc.

Certain criteria were also recommended by the Pande Working Group. The Group suggested the selection of 20 to 30 districts in the whole country for the provision of special incentives during the Fourth Plan period. The Wanchoo Working Group worked on the fiscal and financial incentives to be provided for starting industries in backward areas and recommended certain measures.

The Sixth Plan (1980-85) also recognised the need for balanced growth and the necessity to prepare schemes for backward area development as part of general development. A National Committee for the Development of Backward Area (NCDBA) was framed in 1980 to examine and identify backward areas and also to review the working of existing schemes for stimulating industrial development in backward areas such as concessional finance, investment subsidy, transport subsidy etc.

After this, the Seventh Plan made only a stray reference to regional balance. This relied more on increases in agricultural productivity particularly rice, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds in the eastern region. This strategy was framed to help raise agricultural productivity in the backward regions and ultimately to help reduce disparities in per capita income. There was also a stress on human resource development. Unfortunately, the Eighth Plan almost ignored this problem.

The Centre and State Governments have both taken measures to promote investment in backward areas. These include income tax concessions, Central investment subsidy scheme, transport subsidy scheme, concessional finance by major financial institutions (IDBI, IFCI, ICICI).

#### Arguments For the view

Those who support the view expressed in the statement highlight that these policy measures have by and large failed. They have pointed out towards the major weaknesses of these steps taken.

(i) Disparities are accentuated by the fact that the richer States refuse to transfer

some of their resources to poorer States. States which have a higher per capita development expenditure have a faster rate of economic development. This increases existing imbalances.

(ii) The poorer States do not believe in self-effort, self-help to promote their development. There is a lethargic attitude of reliance on the Centre.

(iii) While formulating schemes for 'drought prone' or 'hilly areas' or those inhabited by scheduled tribes, many areas that do not come under these categories get ignored. Till the Sixth Plan, no effort was made to adopt any strategy of integrated rural development.

(iv) The method of locating large central States in backward States hasn't paid off in any significant way in improving their economies.

(v) Benefits of Central Government subsidy are limited to a few areas only. Moreover, the amount given as subsidy is not related to employment.

(vi) There has been no development of any ancillary, secondary and tertiary industries around the major Central industrial complexes.

(vii) State-level planning is required to sort out problems of regional imbalances. For this, the required decentralisation has to be implemented.

(viii) States have not earmarked special areas for development. Without special efforts, especially allocation of separate funds, disparities cannot be removed.

#### Q. Comment on the Centre-State conflict on finances.

Ans. There has been growing tension and conflict between the Centre and the States in the matter of finance. Very often, this is aggravated by political and ideological differences between the different parties governing the Centre and the States. It has been pointed out that there is a need for political and financial autonomy for the States and drastic restriction of the power and financial resources of the Centre. The States hold various complaints against the Centre:

(a) Insufficient initiative on the part of the Centre to impose all taxes under Article 269 whose proceeds would go to the States.

(b) From the very beginning, the corporation tax has been excluded from the scope of sharing with the States. The States feel particularly sore about this because their contribution to the development of the corporate sector is quite large. They incur considerable expenditure to provide direct infrastructural facilities. They also provide considerable financial incentives for the setting up of industries.

(c) The Central excise duties have been expanded by including under it a growing number of items that were taxed by the State.

(d) The divisible pool of excise duties has been limited to basic duties and additional excise duties. The special and auxiliary duties have been kept out of the divisible pool. The Centre has kept the rates of divisible additional excise duties low while the rates of excise duties and the special and auxiliary duties that are not to be shared with the States or to be shared only in smaller proportions.

(e) The Centre abolished the railway passenger tax whose proceeds were to go to the States and fixed arbitrarily a grant in its place.

(f) The Centre imposed surcharges on income tax but the proceeds were not shared with the States.

(g) The Centre wants to abolish the sales tax which is the main source of revenue of the States and accounts for 60 per cent of the States' own tax revenue. There have also been proposals to abolish Octroi duties and State Excises. Thus, the States are gradually left with lesser number of resources to raise their revenues. By depending upon the Centre, the States are running the risk of losing their economic independence.

These problems are accentuated by the fact that while revenues of the States are increasing only gradually, the expenses of the States are increasing at a fast rate

Too much dependence of the States on the Centre in the form of grants-in-aid and loans has serious consequences. The Centre can be more generous to some States and less to others. Second, there is always an uncertainty in the budgeting of the States. Third, States are unable to fulfil the various electoral promises because of inadequacy of financial resources. Fourth, most States have resorted to unauthorised overdrafts to finance plan projects

However, those who are in favour of a strong Centre reject the case for more functions and resources for the States. It is said that this would pose a danger to national integrity. Some States which are ideologically different from others might like to break away from the federation on some pretext or other. In the Indian context, it cannot even be said firmly that

'State autonomy' would liberate creative energies at present inhibited by constant Central interference and domination or that State autonomy would promote rapid economic growth. The fact is that very few regional parties governing the States have a firm economic ideology. Most are parochial in their outlook. Moreover, it has also been pointed out that States do enjoy considerable autonomy. They have exclusive control over such key sectors as agriculture, irrigation, power, administration, social welfare, law and order etc. But not all States have been able to perform their functions properly. They have also not been able to fully exploit the resources at their command, thus talks of any new resource do not hold much substance.

On the whole, it is seen that the States have become increasingly dependent on

the Centre for their expenditure. This dependence is the natural consequence of the enormous command enjoyed by the Centre over large resources of revenue. This has resulted in a creditor-debtor relationship. This also suits the States well because they are spared from the unpleasant task of taking unpopular tax measures and can blame all problems to the Centre

The Sarkaria Commission, which had submitted its report in 1988, had favoured the amendment of the Constitution to provide for sharing of corporation tax between the Centre and the States. However, all suggestions for enlarging the divisible pool were rejected

The debate on Centre-State financial relations still remains open and there are efforts now to review the relations and set up some firm guidelines

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# General Studies Scene

**Q. 1. Indian Constitution provides certain Fundamental Rights to its citizens. At the same time, it also puts certain limitations upon these rights. Discuss in detail the limitation on the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights.**

**Ans.** Fundamental Rights are one of the most important features of Indian Constitution. The concept of fundamental rights has been borrowed from the Constitution of the United States of America (USA) with required modifications and thus represents a blend of the concepts of Parliamentary sovereignty and Judicial review and supremacy. But at the same time, there are certain limitations upon the enforcement of the fundamental rights, which are discussed as under:

(a) The fundamental rights may be available to the member of Armed Forces and Police Forces in a slightly modified or restricted manner. The Parliament is empowered under Article 33 of the Constitution to modify the application of these rights to the members of such forces so as to ensure proper discharge of their duties and maintenance of required discipline among them.

(b) When martial law is in force in some areas, the fundamental rights of the residents of such areas may be diluted. Under Article 34 of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament has the power to indemnify any person in the service of the Union or the State for any act done by him in connection with the maintenance or restoration of law and order in such area, or validate any sentence passed, or act done when martial law is in force.

(c) Major limitation upon the fundamental rights are imposed during the period of emergency. When the state of emergency is declared by the President under Article 352 of the Constitution, all the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution remain suspended. The effect of the proclamation of emergency on the fundamental rights is as under:

(i) Article 358 of the Constitution immensely increases the powers of the legislature and the executive during the period of emergency and the protection provided to the citizens under Article 19 of the Constitution remains suspended and the State is not required to act within the limits imposed by the said Article. In other words, upon the proclamation of emergency the legislature becomes competent to make any law even though it contravenes or restricts the right of freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, profession, residence etc. The executive shall also be at liberty to take any action in contravention to the above mentioned rights of the citizens. On expiry of proclamation of emergency, however, the operation of Article 19 shall come in force but there

shall be no remedy to the citizens against any acts of the State, done in violation of their rights under Section 19 of the Article, during the time when emergency was in force.

(ii) Article 359 further provides the President with enormous power, which seriously limits the operation of fundamental rights of the citizen during the period of emergency. Under this Article, the President may, by an order, declare that the right to move any court for the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights shall remain suspended during the period of emergency. But after the emergency is lifted this right would automatically be restored. Hence during such a period while the said order under Article 359 remains in force, the Courts would remain without authority to enforce the fundamental rights or issue the prerogative writs. Such an order, however, shall have to be approved by the Parliament as soon as possible, and the Parliament may even disapprove it. It may be noted that the fundamental rights for personal liberties provided under Article 20-21 shall not be restricted by an order under section 359 of the Constitution.

(d) There are some temporary restrictions which may be imposed on the fundamental rights of the citizens by the Executive under various existing statutes like Section 144 of the Cr. P.C., TADA etc, mainly with a view to protect the public life and property and maintain law and order. Such restrictions are only temporary in nature and are lifted as soon as order is restored.

**Q. 2. What do you understand by Industrial Sickness? What are its dimensions in India? Suggest measures to overcome it and also evaluate the measures already taken by the Government.**

**Ans.** Industrial sickness is one of the major problems facing the industrial sector today. It implies a state in industrial unit where it is not possible for it to run itself viably and profitably. The problem may lie in its poor financial management, marketing or any other functional area. Up to the end of March 1992, there were a total of 2,47,724 sick industrial units in India, out of which over 99 per cent were in the Small Scale Industrial (SSI) sector. The total number of sick units in the SSI sectors was 2,45,575. This indicates that the incidence of sickness is very high among the SSI units. Smaller units are normally plagued by lack of finances, poor quality control, non-professional management, inadequate marketing effort, poor personnel management, lack of availability of require

infrastructure and a host of other institutional and environmental problems. Similarly, quite a few number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), both Central as well as State, are faced with the problem of sickness. A total sum of Rs 11,533 crore was outstanding against the sick units by the end of March 1992. But a noticeable feature is that although more than 99 per cent of the sick units were in the SSI sector, out of the total outstanding, only Rs 3101 crore were outstanding in the banks against these units. In other words, the SSI units accounted for only 26.88 per cent of the total outstanding bank loan among all the sick units.

One of the major steps taken by the Government to combat the problem of sickness among the industrial units was the enactment of Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA) under which the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was set up. Main role assigned to BIFR is to suggest rehabilitation packages. These may include recommending additional dose of funds on easy terms, waiving of the interest or principle amount on the existing long term loans, mergers, amalgamations etc. Later the sick PSUs were also ordered to be covered under the BIFR. Upto September 1993, BIFR received 1924 references under Section 15 of SICA and 506 cases were rejected on scrutiny. Out of 1404 references registered, 272 were dismissed as not maintainable, revival schemes were sanctioned or approved in 415 cases and 242 cases were recommended to the concerned High Courts for winding up. In case of PSUs, a total of 138 references (both Central and State) were received upto December 1995 out of which 26 were not found maintainable and in case of 29, rehabilitation schemes were sanctioned. Winding up was sanctioned in case of 14 PSUs.

With a view to examine the bottlenecks in this field, in May 1993, the Government set up a Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring. The report of the Committee was received in July 1993. Its recommendations are as under:

(a) The Committee recommended that the existing definition of sickness should be changed and the new definition of sickness should cover all organisations with a default of 180 days or above on repayment of term loan from the term lending institutions. It further should be matched by irregularities in working capital for more than 180 days.

(b) A sick Company should voluntarily refer to own case for consideration of the BIFR and it should not be mandatory.

(c) The BIFR should act more as a facilitator rather than being a mediator or arbitrator.

(d) The Committee also suggested setting up of at least 5 fast track winding up Tribunals.

(e) The committee also suggested some changes in the Industrial Disputes Act. It recommended that the smaller organisations with upto 300 workers should not be required to seek prior approval of the government to lay off or retrench the workers. Moreover, it suggested increasing the retrenchment benefit from existing 15 days wages for each completed year to 30 days wages for every completed year.

**Q. 3. What were the reasons for partition of Bengal in 1905? How did this event influence the nationalist movement in India?**

**Ans.** On July 20, 1905 Lord Curzon, by an order partitioned Bengal in two parts, mainly on the grounds of administrative convenience. The Government's official view was that the State was too big to be administered as one State, but the main hidden objective was to stem the tide of nationalism rising from the State of Bengal. It was thought that a divided Bengal would not pose any serious threat to the British empire. Moreover, the partition also ensured partition on communal lines as majority of Muslim population was in the East Bengal. The Britishers had sensed rising of nationalism from Bengal as the leaders and thinkers like S.N. Banerjee, Anand Mohan Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Krishan Kumar Mitra, Bipin Chandra Pal, etc were all from Bengal. Hence, the Britishers decided to partition the State, in pursuance of their well-known policy of divide and rule.

The decision of the British Government was opposed by all the sections of the society in Bengal. To start with, the moderate leaders strongly opposed the decision, but this movement was later taken over by militant and revolutionary nationalist leaders. All these factions of nationalist leaders cooperated with one another to oppose the partition. The partition took place on October 16, 1905 but the partition movement was initiated on August 7, 1905. The day of partition was observed as a day of mourning in the entire Bengal. Solidarity was expressed by Hindus and Muslims by celebrating the ceremony of Raksha Bandhan by tying Rakhis on each other's wrists as a symbol of communal unity. Patriotic songs were sung by the masses and the cries of Vande Mataram echoed all over the State of Bengal. The masses also turned to Swadeshi and Boycott. At many places, burning of imported/foreign cloth was observed. Picketing of many shops selling foreign cloth and liquor was done. Many mills, soap and match factories, weaving centres, national banks and national insurance companies were opened to foster the idea of Swadeshi, facilitating the people to boycott the foreign goods and services.

The Partition of Bengal, which was annulled by the British Government in 1911, influenced the nationalist movement markedly. All categories of the society, including the students, women and Muslims, took part in the anti-partition movement. Swadeshi and Boycott helped in augmenting the feelings of nationalism among all the categories. The partition also revealed the maligned intentions of the British Government towards the millions of Indians. It strengthened the mutual bonds and promoted the feeling of nationalism among the Indians and increased their hatred towards the British and their policies. One of the most important aspect of the anti-partition movement was that almost the entire country rose up against the British, and the movement spread to Bombay, Madras and Northern India, initiating a new chapter in the history of rise of nationalism in India.



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## VOCABULARY

# Improve Your Word Power

1. **apogee:** (a) climax (b) complexion (c) reflection (d) defec-tion.
2. **byzantine:** (a) childish (b) complicated (c) straight (d) short.
3. **chute:** (a) progress (b) youth (c) fall (d) ascent.
4. **defalcate:** (a) lose confidence (b) donate blood (c) run a race (d) misappropriate money.
5. **epigram:** (a) achievement (b) failure (c) imitation (d) saying.
6. **ferment:** (a) excitement (b) submission (c) permission (d) folly.
7. **grizzle:** (a) exceed (b) limit (c) complain (d) compete
8. **hireling:** (a) orator (b) servant (c) informer (d) witness.
9. **indigent:** (a) poor (b) proud (c) humble (d) sublime.
10. **jiggery-pockery:** (a) revenge (b) forgiveness (c) donation (d) mischief.
11. **lilliputian:** (a) historic (b) dramatic (c) tiny (d) heavy.
12. **maladroit:** (a) tactful (b) clumsy (c) clever (d) negligent.
13. **noxious:** (a) wholesome (b) naughty (c) clever (d) harm-ful.
14. **obeisance:** (a) obedience (b) faith (c) offence (d) consol-a-tion.
15. **placate:** (a) paint (b) forget (c) pacify (d) irritate
16. **rail (v):** (a) protest (b) protect (c) push (d) pull.
17. **sanguine:** (a) indifferent (b) unlucky (c) lazy (d) cheerful.
18. **tip-toe:** (a) hit hard (b) lie low (c) walk carefully (d) speak fast.
19. **upstage:** (a) overcome (b) overshadow (c) overwhelm (d) overflow.
20. **wangle:** (a) rob (b) steal (c) exert (d) extort.

## ANSWERS

1. **apogee:** (a) climax, height  
—Public sector in India has been viewed as an *apogee* of in-efficiency and mismanagement.
2. **byzantine:** (b) complicated, secretive  
—The Securities Scam has proved to be the result of some *byzantine* intrigue (at the highest level).
3. **chute:** (c) fall, descent slide.  
—Despite impressive explanations, the fact remains that we are caught in the spiral of a currency rapidly going down the *chute*
4. **defalcate:** (d) misappropriate money.  
—Crores of rupees are suspected to have been *defalcated* from the treasuries by some unscrupulous officials of a State govern-ment.
5. **epigram:** (d) saying, maxim.  
—In all societies epitaphs and *epigrams* go together leaving

- very little space for the truth
6. **ferment:** (a) excitement, unrest.  
—The country was in a state of *ferment* when bomb blasts rocked the city of Bombay a few year ago.
  7. **grizzle:** (c) complain.  
—It is given to some children to *grizzle* about something or the other all the time.
  8. **hireling:** (b) servant, henchman, mercenary.  
—Each successful politician has a set of *hirelings* who are ever ready to speak their master's voice without any hitch or hesitation.
  9. **indigent:** (a) poor  
—Cheap books and magazines are printed on recycled news-print and their cover designs are done by *indigent* unknown artists
  10. **jiggery-pockery:** (d) mischief, trickery  
—He began to suspect that some *jiggery-pockery* was going on in his office in his absence.
  11. **lilliputian:** (c) tiny, small  
—The minister was shown a model railway layout peopled with *lilliputian* figures
  12. **maladroit:** (b) clumsy, awkward, inept  
—The negotiations ended in a deadlock because the han-dling of the same was *maladroit* from the very beginning
  13. **noxious:** (d) harmful, injurious.  
—The import of toxic waste should be banned because it contains so many *noxious* ingredients.
  14. **obeisance:** (a) obedience, deference.  
—It has been a tradition in India that juniors make *obeisance* to their elders or seniors.
  15. **placate:** (c) pacify, soothe.  
—The chairperson failed to *placate* the agitated members present in the house
  16. **rail (v):** (a) protest, chide.  
—The workers were up in arms and *railed* at the new recruit-ment policy of the management.
  17. **sanguine:** (d) cheerful, confident, optimistic.  
—The critics of the New Economic Policy are least *sanguine* about its success in India.
  18. **tip-toe:** (c) walk carefully or quietly.  
—The mother *tip-toed* (a. ross) to the bed where the child lay asleep.
  19. **upstage:** (b) overshadow, show up.  
—By making wild promises in their manifestos, political parties tried to *upstage* each other.
  20. **wangle:** (d) extort, get, arrange by trick.  
—Despite his miserly nature, I'll try to *wangle* a contribution out of him.

# Question Box

**Q. How is the poverty line calculated?**

—Mt Martin, Aizawl (Mizoram)

**A.** The Planning Commission has worked out a poverty line based on expenditure on food with a minimum of 2,400 calories in rural areas and 2,100 calories in urban areas. This is presently Rs 264 per month rural and Rs 229 for villages. For more details see *Competition Master*, May '96

**Q. What is the difference between industry and factory?**

—Krishna Chettri, Rothak (West Sikkim)

**A.** An industry is usually referred to as branch of manufacture or production collectively, such as coal or telecom industry. One unit within an industry would be called a factory.

**Q. I am a student of the ninth standard. What should I do after my ICSE?**

—Shatarupa Adhikary, Siliguri (WB)

**A.** Choose a career of your choice and interest. There are many options open to you. Talking with teachers or a counsellor will help you make up your mind.

**Q. In his book, K.J. Alphons says that bureaucrats like him have a salary of Rs 5,000 per month. Is this what lakhs of IAS aspirants compete for? Shouldn't the IAS officers be paid more?**

—Ritu Garg, Noida (UP)

**A.** A bureaucrat's salary hides many perks such as housing and free use of car. If the market value of the rents and other expenses incurred on them are added, their salaries will no longer appear little. IAS aspirants look forward not only to these perks but also the power associated with them. Ultimately, each profession has its plus and minus points. As to your question whether they should be paid more, their salaries have increased with time, but many people feel they are already overpaid.

**Q. What is 'stop press'?**

—Dolana Sarkar, Sunabeda, Koraput

**A.** When a news item is received in a newspaper which must be included in the day's edition, it is put under the heading 'stop press' since there is no time to give it a better display. In these days of computer technology, 'stop press' has become almost non-existent.

**Q. What is CTBT? What is India's stand on it?**

—Harikumar TK, Pathanamthitta (Kerala)

**A.** The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a treaty that proposes to ban nuclear testing by all countries. India says the treaty is discriminatory. For more details, see *Competition Master*, February '96.

**Q. What should a person do if one is unsuccessful in the Joint Entrance Examination of engineering?**

—Anita Tagore, Calcutta

**A.** No examination is the end of the world. If one is unsuccessful, it probably means that one lacks aptitude for a particular course. One should try for better things in life.

**Q. I am very depressed as I have a dry skin and it looks ugly in winter. What should I do?**

—Bharat Kumar, Ambala Cantt

**A.** There is nothing to feel depressed about. Use a cold cream during winters and your skin will no longer be ugly.

**Q. Why do train bogies make a sound when moving on rails?**

—M Kamcsuara Rao, Hyderabad

**A.** Rails usually have gaps to allow for expansion of railway tracks. These are at regular intervals. When train bogies pass on these gaps, they make a noise.

**Q. How should one get over depression?**

—TK Mishra, Sundargarh (Orissa)

**A.** Depression is a result of internalising feelings and thinking too deeply over matters. One can avoid it by being with friends and taking part in outdoor and group activities. If depression is severe, one should see a psychiatrist.

**Q. What is greenhouse effect? Is CFC responsible for it?**

—Vivek Anand, Vaishali (Bihar)

**A.** When heat gets trapped in the atmosphere and a sultry climate is produced, it is called greenhouse effect. CFCs are responsible for it, as well as emissions like carbon dioxide and methane.

**Q. What is a black box?**

—J Ketaki, Khannar (Orissa)

**A.** Every airplane has a recording device which records all that goes on inside the cockpit. It is difficult to destroy. In air crashes, the black box comes in very useful in ascertaining the cause of the crash.

**Q. What is the difference between fax and e-mail?**

—V Ramamurthy, Guduvada (AP)

**A.** A fax transmits documents through telephone lines. E-mail is communication between computers again using telephone lines, in which messages are transmitted, not documents.

**Q. What is meant when we say the refrigerator is of 165 litres capacity?**

—Anil Kumar, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

**A.** The internal space of the refrigerator.

**Q. I want to be a defence officer but cannot pass the NDA or CDS exam. What should I do?**

—Rajesh Jaswal, Kangra (HP)

A. Join a specialised coaching school that prepares students for CDS/NDA. On the other hand, if you have tried several times, it might be worthwhile to look at other career options.

**Q. What does 'grassroots' signify?**

—Narottam Jena, Mantri (Orissa)

A. Ordinary people are referred to as 'grassroot' level, as opposed to people who make policy and take decisions.

**Q. I would like to join B.E. How can I join it?**

—Anil Kumar Desai, Bagalkot (Karnataka)

A. Appear for the engineering entrance tests and secure admission in an engineering college.

**Q. How can I become an air hostess?**

—Sapna Sharma, Allahabad (UP)

A. Apply to an airline when they advertise for such posts.

**Q. If cream is removed from milk, why does its density increase?**

—Satyaban Gahir, Balangir (Orissa)

A. Cream is lighter and has lesser density than milk. When it is removed, the remaining milk will obviously have a higher density.

**Q. Can the Chief Election Commissioner cast his vote during elections?**

—Rajib Das, 24 Parganas (W.B.)

A. Yes. Every citizen of India is entitled to vote.

**Q. I am a student of class 10. I wanted to take up medical group but people have confused me by saying that I should take up non-medical group. Please tell me what I should do.**

—Sarbjit Singh, Chandigarh

A. Your dilemma is common among young people. We suggest that you do an independent assessment of your strengths and interests. Take up what you are happy with. Your decision is going to affect your life, not the lives of people who advise you. Ultimately, people do well in medical as well as non-medical provided they have the aptitude and interest.

**Q. How should one study for competitive exams?**

—Satyapriya Pramanik, Asansol (WB)

A. Competitive exams call for hard work and discipline. Set a personal time-table and stick to it. Cover all the subjects required and learn to answer questions precisely. This will help you in competitive exams.

**Q. What are the prospects of doing a course in mass communications?**

—Swati Agarwal, New Delhi

A. Communications are opening up in the country. There is a demand for trained people in all media. Thus the prospects of such a course are excellent.

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# Quantitative Aptitude

**Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Selection Board Exam held on 19th May, 1996**

- 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, ..... are:  
(a) natural numbers (b) odd natural numbers  
(c) even natural numbers (d) prime numbers
- Find the missing number in the given series.  
4, 9, ....., 25, 36  
(a) 14 (b) 18 (c) 16 (d) 20
- $1\frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{8} + \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} = ?$   
(a)  $1\frac{5}{6}$  (b)  $1\frac{7}{12}$  (c)  $8\frac{4}{5}$  (d)  $2\frac{5}{6}$
- $$4 \frac{\frac{15}{2} - \frac{3}{5}}{2 + \frac{5}{3} - \frac{5}{3}} = ?$$
  
(a)  $2\frac{9}{47}$  (b)  $3\frac{9}{47}$  (c)  $5\frac{9}{47}$  (d) None
- $41.59 \times 41.59 + 58.41 \times 58.41 + 83.18 \times 58.41 = ?$   
(a) 20 (b) 50 (c) 90 (d)  $100^2$
- Find the least number which when divided by 8, 9, 12 and 14 leaves remainder 4 in each case; but when divided by 11, leaves no remainder:  
(a) 504 (b) 508 (c) 1008 (d) 1012
- The LCM of 24, 30, 56, 70 is:  
(a) 660 (b) 480 (c) 840 (d) none of these
- $\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{1000} - \sqrt{1210} = ?$   
(a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3
- $\frac{10x^8}{5x^4} = ?$   
(a)  $2x^4$  (b)  $2x^3$  (c)  $2x^0$  (d)  $5x^4$
- The average age of 5 boys is 18 years and a new boy joins them by which average becomes 19 years. Then the age of the new comer is:  
(a) 20 yrs (b) 22 yrs (c) 24 yrs (d) 30 yrs
- A man walks from one place to another at the rate of 5km/hr and returns at the rate of 3km/hr. Then the average speed in whole of the journey is:  
(a)  $3\frac{3}{4}$  km/hr (b) 3 km/hr  
(c) 5 km/hr (d) none of these
- 7 years ago, the average age of a family of 5 members was 25 years. Two children having been born. Then the average age of the family is 1 year less than the previous average. What is the present age of the two children if the difference between their ages is 2 years?  
(a) 5 years, 3 years (b) 7 yrs, 5 yrs  
(c) 9 yrs, 7 yrs (d) none of these
- A student has to secure 40% marks to pass. If he gets

- 20 marks and fails by 20 marks; then maximum marks are:  
(a) 30 (b) 40 (c) 80 (d) 100
- What per cent of 40 is 8?  
(a) 5% (b) 10% (c) 155% (d) 20%
- When 75% of a number is added to 75, then the result is the number again. The number is given by:  
(a) 100 (b) 200 (c) 250 (d) 300
- 95% of students were present in a school and 18 students were absent. Then the total number of students is:  
(a) 400 (b) 500 (c) 550 (d) none of these
- In an election, 4000 votes were polled and one of the two candidates got 40% votes. Then by how many votes he was defeated?  
(a) 1200 (b) 1600 (c) 800 (d) none of these
- In an examination 70% candidates passed in English, 65% in Mathematics and 27% failed in both subjects and 248 candidates passed in both the subjects. Then the number of total students appeared in the examination is given by:  
(a) 300 (b) 400 (c) 500 (d) 600
- How much tea at Rs 4 a kilogram should be added to 15 kilograms of tea at Rs 10 per kg so as to make the mixture worth Rs 6.50 per kg?  
(a) 21 kg (b) 16 kg (c) 4 kg (d) 10 kg
- 40 litres of a mixture of milk and water contains 10% of water. How much water must be added to make the water 20% in the new mixture?  
(a) 5 litres (b) 3 litres (c) 9 litres (d) 11 litres
- A fruit-seller purchased 100 oranges for Rs 80. If 20 of them are rotten, then at what price he should sell the rest of the oranges to have 25% profit?  
(a) Rs 1.00 per orange (b) Rs 1.20 per orange  
(c) Rs 1.25 per orange (d) Rs 1.50 per orange
- A businessman gets 40% profit on the marked price. He sells  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total goods at the marked price and on the rest he gives 30% discount. Calculate his loss or profit per cent?  
(a) Loss = 1% (b) Profit = 1%  
(c) Loss = 2% (d) Profit = 2%
- At what price must a shopkeeper mark his goods which costs him Rs. 3000, so that after allowing a discount of 25% on this price for cash, he may still make a profit of 10%?  
(a) Rs 3600 (b) Rs 4000 (c) Rs 4400 (d) Rs 4800
- By selling 25 metres of cloth, a shopkeeper gains equal to the selling price of 5 metres. Find his gain per cent.  
(a) 20% (b) 25% (c) 40% (d) 50%
- The compound interest on Rs 10,000 for 2 years at 5% per annum is:  
(a) Rs 1000 (b) Rs 1025  
(c) Rs 1030 (d) none of these
- A certain sum of money is invested at 5% interest, compounded annually for 3 years. If the interest computes to Rs 2522, then the principal is:

- (a) Rs 10,000 (b) Rs 13,000  
(c) Rs 16,000 (d) Rs 15762.50
27. A sum of money put out at compound interest amounts in 2 years to Rs 16,900 and in 3 years to Rs 17,576. Then the rate of interest and the original sum are:  
(a) 4% and Rs 15625 (b) 5% and Rs 15625  
(c) 3% and Rs 15625 (d) 6% and Rs 16676
28. In a garrison, food was sufficient for 400 men for 10 days. 200 men left the garrison after 2 days. Find for how many days, food will last for the remaining men?  
(a) 15 days (b) 16 days (c) 18 days (d) 17 days
29. Divide Rs 4700 among P, Q and R such that P gets Rs 700 more than Q and Q gets Rs 500 more than R.  
(a) Rs 2200, Rs 1500, Rs 1000  
(b) Rs 2000, Rs 1700, Rs 1000  
(c) Rs 1500, Rs 2000, Rs 1200  
(d) none of these
30. Two numbers are in the ratio of 5 : 8. If 12 be added to each, then they are in the ratio of 3 : 4. The value of the first number is:  
(a) 15 (b) 10 (c) 5 (d) none of these
31. Divide Rs 81 in X, Y, Z such that  $\frac{1}{2}$  of X's share,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Y's share and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Z's share are equal. Then X's share is:  
(a) Rs 10 (b) Rs 15 (c) Rs 18 (d) None of these
32. A bag contains rupee-coins, 50-paise coins and 25-paise coins in the ratio 2 : 3 : 10 and their total value is Rs 72. Then the total number of coins is:  
(a) 100 (b) 120  
(c) 180 (d) none of these
33. If 8 men would take 75 days to do a piece of work, then how many men will do this work in 40 days?  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) none of these
34. Ram can do a piece of work in 5 days and Shyam can finish the same work in 10 days. In how many days both working together will finish the same work?

- (a)  $3\frac{1}{3}$  days (b)  $2\frac{1}{3}$  days  
(c)  $4\frac{1}{3}$  days (d) none of these
35. P, Q and R separately can do a piece of work in 6 days, 8 days and 10 days respectively. They undertook to finish a work for Rs 470. How should they divide the money?  
(a) Rs 200, 150, 120 (b) Rs 190, 170, 110  
(c) Rs 180, 160, 130 (d) none of these
36. If the diameter of a circle is increased by 100, then its area is increased by:  
(a) 100% (b) 200% (c) 300% (d) 400%
37. A circle of radius 10 cm has its radius decreased by 4 cm. Then the percentage of decrease in area is:  
(a) 36% (b) 40% (c) 64% (d) none of these
38. A computer was hired by Atul, Harish and Vinay and they used it for 5, 6 and 9 days respectively. Its total rent was Rs. 24000. The amount paid by Harish is:  
(a) Rs 6000 (b) Rs 7200 (c) Rs 10,800 (d) Rs 1080
39. If a man has Rs 60 which is a sum of one rupee, 50 paise and 25 paise in the ratio of 5 : 6 : 8 then the number of 50 paise coins is:  
(a) 30 (b) 48 (c) 36 (d) 37
40. If the hands of the clock coincide on every 64 minutes then the loss per day is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 96 minutes (b) 36 minutes  
(c) 90 minutes (d) 32 minutes
41. Two pipes P and Q can fill a cistern in 24 minutes and 32 minutes respectively. If both the pipes are opened together, then after how much time should Q be closed so that the tank is full in 18 minutes  
(a) 6 minutes (b) 12 minutes  
(c) 8 minutes (d) 10 minutes
42. If the breadth of a rectangular field is  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of its length and its perimeter is 160 m, then its area is:  
(a) 1536 sqm (b) 1546 sqm  
(c) 1636 sqm (d) 1646 sqm

Directions (Q. 43 to 47): Read the following table and answer the questions that follow.

Subjects	Hindi		English		Maths		Civics		Economics	
Year	No.	% Passed	No.	% Passed	No.	% Passed	No.	% Passed	No.	% Passed
1990	120	45	121	51	117	40	135	40	113	63
1991	96	50	113	53	193	47	139	52	119	64
1992	115	64	150	67	107	40	145	45	160	40
1993	119	60	180	55	145	65	141	55	121	51
1994	121	63	77	60	120	60	147	53	145	60
1995	124	57	111	65	173	61	161	54	177	65

43. In how many years the % of students passed in all the subjects is more than 50%?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 1
44. What is the % decrease in the no. of students passed in Mathematics from 1993 to 1994?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6
45. What is the difference in the no. of students passed in Economics in 1992 and 1994?  
(a) 21 (b) 23 (c) 27 (d) 33
46. In which year the no. of students passed in Hindi is exactly equal to the no. of students passed in Civics?  
(a) 1990 (b) 1992 (c) 1993 (d) 1994
47. What is the % increase in the no. of students in English from 1992 to 1993?  
(a) 22 (b) 20 (c) 15 (d) 30
48. Area of a circle increases by 22 cm<sup>2</sup> when radius is increased by 1 cm. Then the original radius is:  
(a) 6 cm (b) 3.2 cm (c) 3 cm (d) none of these
49. Dinanath invested 40% of his salary on food, 50% of the remaining on education, and 10% of the remaining on other requirements. Now he is left with Rs 540. What is his annual salary?

(a) Rs 2000 (b) Rs 24000 (c) Rs 12000 (d) Rs 6000

50. A rectangular piece of paper 12 cm long and 3 cm wide is rolled to form a cylinder. What will be the radius of the cylinder?

(a)  $\frac{3}{2\pi}$  cm (b)  $\frac{6}{3\pi}$  cm (c)  $\frac{9}{5\pi}$  cm (d)  $2\pi$  cm

### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) 2. (c)  $2^2, 3^2, 4^2, 5^2, 6^2$
3. (b)  $\frac{3}{2} + \frac{5}{8} \times \frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{5}{6} - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{18+10-9}{12} = \frac{19}{12} = 1\frac{7}{12}$
4. (d) 
$$\frac{15}{2 + \frac{3}{\frac{5}{3} + \frac{5}{3}}} = \frac{15}{2 + \frac{3}{\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{1}{3}}} = \frac{15}{2 + \frac{3}{\frac{2}{15}}} = \frac{15}{2 + \frac{3 \times 15}{2}} = \frac{15}{2 + \frac{45}{2}} = \frac{15}{\frac{49}{2}} = \frac{30}{49}$$
5. (d) Let  $41.59 = a$ ,  $58.41 = b$   
 $axa + bxb + (2 \times a) \times b = (a + b)^2 = (41.59 + 58.41)^2 = 100^2$
6. (d) L.C.M. of 8, 9, 12, 14 = 504  
 $504 \times 1 + 4 = 508$  not divisible by 11  
 $504 \times 2 + 4 = 1012$  which is divisible by 11
7. (c)
8. (a)  $\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{10^2 \times 10} - \sqrt{11^2 \times 10} = \sqrt{10} + 10\sqrt{10} - 11\sqrt{10} = (1 + 10 - 11)\sqrt{10} = 0 \times \sqrt{10} = 0$
9. (a)  $\frac{10x^8}{5x^4} = 2x^{8-4} = 2x^4$
10. (c) Age of new comer =  $19 \times 6 - 18 \times 5 = 114 - 90 = 24$  yrs
11. (a) Average speed =  $\frac{2xy}{x+y} = \frac{2 \times 5 \times 3}{5+3} = \frac{30}{8} = 3\frac{3}{4}$  km/h
12. (a) Total age of 5 members 7 years ago =  $25 \times 5 = 125$  yrs  
 Total present age of 5 members =  $125 + 7 \times 5 = 160$  years  
 Total present age of 7 members =  $7 \times (25 - 1) = 168$  years  
 Total age of 2 children =  $168 - 160 = 8$  years  
 A.T.S.  $x + (x + 2) = 8 \Rightarrow x = 3$   
 Present age of younger child = 3 years  
 Present age of elder child =  $3 + 2 = 5$  years
13. (d)  $40\%$  of  $x = 20 + 20 \Rightarrow x = 100$
14. (d)  $x\%$  of  $40 = 8 \Rightarrow \frac{x}{100} \times 40 = 8 \Rightarrow x = 20$

15. (d)  $75\%$  of  $x + 75 = x$  or  $\frac{75}{100} \times x + 75 = x \Rightarrow x = 300$
16. (d)  $95\%$  of  $x + 18 = x$  or  $x - \frac{95x}{100} = 18 \Rightarrow x = 360$
17. (c) The winning candidate got  $(100 - 40)\%$  i.e.  $60\%$  votes  
 Diff. =  $60\% - 40\% = 20\%$   
 Req'd. no. of votes =  $20\%$  of  $4000 = 800$  votes
18. (b) Candidates failed in English =  $(100 - 70)\% = 30\%$   
 Candidates failed in Maths =  $(100 - 65)\% = 35\%$   
 Candidates failed in English or Maths or both  
 $n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B) = 30 + 35 - 27 = 38$   
 Candidates passed in both the subjects  
 $= 100 - 38 = 62\% \therefore 62\%$  of  $x = 248$  or  $x = 400$
19. (a) 
$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Rs 4/kg} \quad \text{Rs 10/kg} \\ \text{Rs 6.50/kg} \\ 3.50 \quad 2.50 \end{array}$$
  
 Ratio  $3.50 : 2.50 = 7 : 5 = 21 : 15$   
 21 kg of tea at Rs 4/kg should be added to 15 kg of tea at Rs 10/kg
20. (a) Total quantity of water in the mixture =  $10\%$  of  $40 = 4$ l  
 Let water added be  $x$  litres  
 A.T.S.  $(40 + x) \frac{20}{100} - x = 4 \Rightarrow x = 5$
21. (c) S.P. of 80 oranges =  $80 \times \frac{125}{100} = \text{Rs } 100$   
 $\therefore$  S.P. of 1 orange =  $\frac{100}{80} = \text{Rs } 1.25$
22. (d) Let C.P. = Rs 100  $\therefore$  M.P. = Rs 120  
 $\therefore$  S.P. of  $\frac{1}{2}$  goods = 60,  
 S.P. of other half =  $60 \times \frac{100 - 30}{100} = 42$   
 Total SP =  $60 + 42 = \text{Rs } 102$   
 Profit =  $102 - 100 = 2$  Profit % =  $2\%$
23. (c) S.P. =  $3000 \times \frac{110}{100} = 3300$   
 Let M.P. be Rs 100  $\therefore$  S.P. =  $100 - 25 = 75$   
 If S.P. is Rs 75 then M.P. = Rs 100  
 If S.P. is Rs 3300 then M.P. =  $\frac{100}{75} \times 3300 = \text{Rs } 4400$
24. (b) Let S.P. of 1 m = Re 1  $\therefore$  S.P. of 25 m of cloth = Rs 25  
 $\therefore$  Gain = Rs 5  $\therefore$  C.P. =  $25 - 5 = 20$   
 Gain% =  $\frac{5}{20} \times 100 = 25$
25. (b) C.I. =  $10000 \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{5}{100} \right)^2 - 1 \right] = 10000 \left[ \left( \frac{21}{20} \right)^2 - 1 \right]$   
 $= 10000 \times \frac{41}{400} = 1025$
26. (c)  $2522 = P \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{5}{100} \right)^3 - 1 \right] \therefore P = \text{Rs } 16000$
27. (a)  $17576 = P \left( 1 + \frac{R}{100} \right)^3$   
 $16900 = P \left( 1 + \frac{R}{100} \right)^2 \therefore \frac{17576}{16900} = \frac{P \left( 1 + \frac{R}{100} \right)^3}{P \left( 1 + \frac{R}{100} \right)^2}$

$$\text{or } 1 + \frac{R}{100} = \frac{17576}{16900} \text{ or } R = 4\%$$

$$16900 = P \left(1 + \frac{4}{100}\right)^2 \text{ or } P = 16900 \times \frac{25}{26} \times \frac{25}{26} = 15625$$

28. (b) Men days  
400 (10 - 2) = 8

$$\frac{(400 - 200)}{200} = \frac{x}{8} \Rightarrow x = 16$$

29. (a) Let R's share be Rs x  $\therefore$  Q's share = x + 500  
P's share = x + 500 + 700 = x + 1200  
A.T.S. x + 1200 + x + 500 + x = 4700  $\therefore$  x = 1000  
Q's share = 1000 + 500 = Rs 1500  
R's share = 1000 + 1200 = Rs 2200

30. (a) Let the nos be 5x, 8x  
A.T.S.  $\frac{5x + 12}{8x + 12} = \frac{3}{4} \therefore x = 3 \therefore$  1st no. = 5  $\times$  3 = 15

31. (c)  $\frac{X's \text{ share}}{2} = \frac{Y's \text{ share}}{3} = \frac{Z's \text{ share}}{4} = x$  (say)  
 $\therefore$  X's share = 2x, Y's share = 3x, Z's share = 4x  
 $\therefore$  2x + 3x + 4x = 81  $\Rightarrow$  x = 9  
 $\therefore$  X's share = 2x = 2  $\times$  9 = Rs 18

32. (c) Let the no. of 1 Re coins be 2x, no. of 50 paise coins be 3x and no. of 25 paise coins = 10x  
 $\therefore$  100  $\times$  2x + 50  $\times$  3x + 25  $\times$  10x = 7200  
 $\therefore$  x = 12  $\therefore$  No. of coins = 2x + 3x + 10x = 15x  
= 15  $\times$  12 = 180

33. (b) Days Men  
75 8 Inverse variation  
40 x  $\frac{75}{40} = \frac{x}{8}$  or x =  $\frac{75 \times 8}{40} = 15$  men

34. (a) Work done by both in one day =  $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{2+1}{10} = \frac{3}{10}$   
 $\therefore$  Both working together will finish the work in  $\frac{10}{3}$   
i.e.,  $3\frac{1}{3}$  days

35. (a) Ratio of their one day's work =  $\frac{1}{6} : \frac{1}{8} : \frac{1}{10} = 20 : 15 : 12$

$$\therefore \text{P's share} = \frac{20}{20+15+12} \times 470 = \text{Rs } 200$$

$$\text{Q's share} = \frac{15}{47} \times 470 = 150$$

$$\text{R's share} = \frac{12}{47} \times 470 = \text{Rs } 120$$

36. (c) Let the original diameter be 2r, radius = r  
 $\therefore$  Increased diameter =  $2r + \frac{100}{100} \times 2r = 4r$

$$\therefore \text{Radius} = 2r$$

$$\text{Increase in area} = \pi (2r)^2 - \pi r^2 = 3\pi r^2$$

$$\% \text{age increase in area} = \frac{3\pi r^2}{\pi r^2} \times 100 = 300\%$$

37. (c) Decrease in area =  $\pi (10)^2 - \pi (10 - 4)^2 = 100\pi - 36\pi = 64\pi$

$$\% \text{age decrease} = \frac{64\pi}{100\pi} \times 100 = 64$$

38. (b) Ratio of the amount paid by Atul, Harish and Viney

$$= 5 : 6 : 9$$

$$\therefore \text{Amount paid by Harish} = \frac{6}{5+6+9} \times 24000 = \text{Rs } 7200$$

39. (c) Let the no. of one Re, 50 p, 25 p coins be 5x, 6x, 8x  
 $\therefore$  5x  $\times$  100 + 6x  $\times$  50 + 8x  $\times$  25 = 6000

$$\therefore x = 6$$

$$\therefore \text{No. of 50 paise coins} = 6x = 6 \times 6 = 36$$

40. (a) Loss per day =  $\frac{64-60}{60} \times 24 \times 60 = 96$  minutes

41. (c) Work done by P in 18 minutes =  $\frac{1}{24} \times 18 = \frac{3}{4}$

$$\text{Remaining work} = 1 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ of work will be done by Q in } \frac{1}{4} \times 32 = 8 \text{ minutes}$$

$$\therefore \text{Q should be closed after 8 minutes}$$

42. (a) Let L = x  $\therefore$  B =  $\frac{2}{3}x$  P = 2 (L + B) = 160 m

$$2 \left(x + \frac{2}{3}x\right) = 160 \Rightarrow x = 48 \therefore L = 48,$$

$$B = \frac{2}{3} \times 48 = 32 \text{ m} \therefore \text{Area} = 48 \times 32 = 1536 \text{ sq m}$$

43. (b) 44 (c)

45. (b) No. of students passed in Economics in 1992  
=  $\frac{40}{100} \times 160 = 64$

$$\text{No. of students passed in Economics in 1994} = \frac{60}{100} \times 145 = 87$$

$$\text{Difference} = 87 - 64 = 23$$

46. (a) No. of students passed in Hindi in 1990  
=  $\frac{120 \times 45}{100} = 54$

$$\text{No. of students passed in Civics in 1990} = \frac{135 \times 40}{100} = 54$$

47. (b) Reqd. increase =  $\frac{30}{150} \times 100 = 20$

48. (c)  $\pi (r+1)^2 - \pi r^2 = 22$  or  $\pi [(r+1)^2 - r^2] = 22$   
 $r^2 + 1 + 2r - r^2 = 22 \times \frac{7}{22} = 7 \Rightarrow r = 3$

49. (a) Let the annual salary be Rs 100  
Investment on food = Rs 40  $\therefore$  Remaining = Rs 60

$$\text{Investment on education} = \frac{50}{100} \times 60 = 30$$

$$\text{Remaining} = \text{Rs } 60 - 30 = \text{Rs } 30$$

$$\text{Investment on other items} = \frac{10}{100} \times 30 = \text{Rs } 3$$

$$\text{Remaining} = 30 - 3 = 27$$

$$\therefore \text{Annual salary} = \frac{100}{27} \times 540 = \text{Rs } 2000$$

50. (a)  $2\pi r = 3 \therefore r = \frac{3}{2\pi}$

$$\text{Radius} = \frac{3}{2\pi}$$



# GENERAL AWARENESS

**SSC Income Tax and Central Excise Inspectors' Exam held on the 28th April, 1996**

- What forms the main theme of Ajanta paintings?  
 (a) Jataka stories  
 (b) Stories from Mahabharata  
 (c) Stories from Ramayana  
 (d) Panchatantra stories
- Smallest State in the world in terms of area is:  
 (a) Nauru (b) Monaco  
 (c) Seychelles (d) Vatican
- Barren Island is famous because it has:  
 (a) No population  
 (b) No cultivation  
 (c) Active volcano  
 (d) Non-availability of potable water
- Name the folk dance of Rajasthan:  
 (a) Garba (b) Ghumar  
 (c) Jhumar (d) Kathak
- Match the ancient Indian Dynasty with the Capital from which it ruled:  
 (1) Pallavas (a) Dhillika  
 (2) Chalukyas (b) Kanchipuram  
 (3) Hoysalas (c) Vatapi  
 (4) Tomars (d) Dwarasamudra  
 (a) 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d  
 (b) 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d  
 (c) 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a  
 (d) 1-d, 2-a, 3-c, 4-b
- British shifted the Imperial Capital from Calcutta to Delhi in:  
 (a) 1905 (b) 1909  
 (c) 1911 (d) 1914
- What name is given to the designs drawn by the women of Tamil Nadu on their floors and thresholds using pastes and powders?  
 (a) Madna (b) Alpana  
 (c) Kolam (d) Rangoli
- The State of Indian Union, which will rank lowest on the basis of population residing in its territory, is:  
 (a) Manipur  
 (b) Meghalaya  
 (c) Sikkim  
 (d) Mizoram
- The State of Indian Union, which is best suited for growth of some of the rarest Orchids, is:  
 (a) Himachal Pradesh  
 (b) Arunachal Pradesh  
 (c) Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh  
 (d) Nagaland
- In the Battle of Wandiwash of 1760, the English defeated:  
 (a) The Dutch (b) The French  
 (c) The Germans (d) The Portuguese
- Who was the author of *Unto This Last*?  
 (a) Boncerf (b) Tolstoy  
 (c) Ruskin (d) Thoreau
- Which is the middle tier of Panchayati Raj in India?  
 (a) Zila Parishad  
 (b) Gram Sabha  
 (c) Gram Panchayat  
 (d) Panchayat Samiti
- No person can be employed in factories or mines unless he is above the age of:  
 (a) 12 years (b) 14 years  
 (c) 18 years (d) 20 years
- Ms Tansu Ciller was the Prime Minister of:  
 (a) Indonesia (b) Iceland  
 (c) Turkey (d) Latvia
- Name the artist who started his career as painter of cinema posters:  
 (a) Satish Gujral  
 (b) M.F. Hussain  
 (c) Paramjit Singh  
 (d) Ganesh Pyne
- When a constant force is applied to a body it moves with uniform:  
 (a) Momentum  
 (b) Velocity  
 (c) Speed  
 (d) Acceleration
- Which one of the following is an item included in the list of Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen in the Constitution:  
 (a) To practice secularism  
 (b) To develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of enquiry and reform  
 (c) To pay all taxes to government regularly and correctly  
 (d) Not to assault any public servant during the performance of his duties
- The silvered surface of thermos flask prevents transfer of heat by:  
 (a) Conduction  
 (b) Convection  
 (c) Reflection  
 (d) Radiation
- Soil waste disposal should be done by:  
 (a) Sanitary land fill

- (b) Incineration  
(c) Composting  
(d) All the above three
20. Smog is a common pollutant in places having excessive amount in the air of:  
(a) Sulphur dioxide (b) Ammonia  
(c) Nitrogen (d) Oxygen
21. The price system ensures:  
(a) Efficiency in production  
(b) Equity in distribution  
(c) Allocation of goods to those who can pay for it  
(d) Optimum utilization of resources
22. Which of the following pairs of commodities is an example of substitute goods?  
(a) Pen and Ink  
(b) Left shoe and Right shoe  
(c) Mustard oil and Coconut oil  
(d) Gold and Water
23. Which one of the following could best be regarded as an 'entrepreneur'?  
(a) A bank manager  
(b) A football club manager  
(c) A sales girl in a dress shop  
(d) A grain merchant
24. Which one of the following crops is sown for green manuring?  
(a) Arhar (b) Urad  
(c) Gram (d) Peas
25. New Industrial Policy resolution of 1991 proposed:  
(a) Abolition of all industrial licensing  
(b) Direct Foreign Investment upto 51% equity in priority industries  
(c) Foreign Technology agreements on the merit of individual cases  
(d) Conversion of public sector enterprises to private enterprises
26. Which one of the following represent the dark, thick rain clouds?  
(a) Cirrus (b) Cumulonimbus  
(c) Cumulus (d) Stratus
27. The Rashtrakuta king who constructed the famous Rock-cut Siva temple at Ellora was:  
(a) Dantidurga (b) Govinda III  
(c) Amoghavarsha (d) Krishna I
28. "Portfolio management" means an effort to:  
(a) Minimize tax liability  
(b) Maximize yield with safety of financial investments  
(c) Raise loans in accordance with needs of the borrowing company  
(d) Raising loans at least possible interest cost
29. Milk lacks in one important nutrient—which?  
(a) Calcium (b) Iron  
(c) Potassium (d) Protein
30. Tube light works on the principle of:  
(a) Chemical effect of current  
(b) Heating effect of current  
(c) Magnetic effect of current  
(d) Discharge of electricity through gases
31. Cooking gas is a mixture of:  
(a) Carbon monoxide and Carbon dioxide  
(b) Butane and Propane  
(c) Methane and Ethylene  
(d) Carbon dioxide and Oxygen
32. In India the largest single item of current Government expenditure is:  
(a) Defence expenditure  
(b) Interest payment on debt  
(c) Payment of subsidies  
(d) Investment in social overheads
33. Diamond Harbour was recently in the news because.  
(a) A large quantity of diamonds smuggled through the place was confiscated  
(b) A new diamond mine has been discovered  
(c) A new ship was launched from this place  
(d) Total solar eclipse was witnessed in October 1995
34. An iceberg is floating in sea. How much of its mass will remain above the surface of water?  
(a) One tenth (b) One fifth  
(c) One fourth (d) One third
35. To whom are the fundamental rights under the Indian Constitution guaranteed?  
(a) Everybody in India  
(b) Indian Citizens everywhere  
(c) All legal entities  
(d) All adult humans in India
36. What is the width of a football goal?  
(a) 20 feet (b) 22 feet  
(c) 24 feet (d) 26 feet
37. With which of the following is the writ of "habeas corpus" associated with?  
(a) Production of persons before the court  
(b) Releasing a person under arrest on bail  
(c) Quashing the order of an administrative authority  
(d) An order to enforce freedom of expression
38. What is the minimum escape velocity—the speed necessary to counter earth's gravity and to break away from earth into outer space—required for a rocket to be launched into space?  
(a) 5 km per second  
(b) 6 km per second  
(c) 11 km per second  
(d) 20 km per second
39. Leakage of Methyl isocyanate caused the biggest industrial disaster a few years ago. What was the industrial plant manufacturing where the leakage occurred?  
(a) Fertiliser  
(b) Pesticides  
(c) Storage batteries  
(d) Pharmaceuticals
40. Who is credited with advancement of missile technology in India?  
(a) Dr R. Ramanna  
(b) Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
(c) Dr U.R. Rao  
(d) Dr V.S. Arunachalam
41. In which of the lakes is "Lake Palace" located?

- (a) Wular (b) Pichola  
(c) Perryar (d) Chilka
42. Which of the following has the highest upper limit of audible range?  
(a) Dog (b) Bat  
(c) Man (d) Whale
43. Who among the following was famous for establishing an elaborate system of municipal administration?  
(a) Chandragupta Maurya  
(b) Chandragupta Vikramaditya  
(c) Harshavardhana  
(d) Kanishka
44. Through which one of the following countries the equator does not pass?  
(a) Tanzania (b) Kenya  
(c) Zaire (d) Uganda
45. The moving spirit behind setting up the Central Hindu School at Banaras which later on grew into the Banaras Hindu University was  
(a) Panditha Ramabai  
(b) Rajaram Mohan Roy  
(c) Mrs Annie Besant  
(d) Vidya Sagar
46. The following is a listing of towns/cities. Which listing is in the order of increasing latitudes?  
(a) Belgaum-Dharwar-Raichur-Kurnool  
(b) Dharwar-Kurnool-Belgaum-Raichur  
(c) Kurnool-Raichur-Dharwar-Belgaum  
(d) Raichur-Belgaum-Kurnool-Dharwar
47. Which Article of the Constitution of India accords special status to Jammu and Kashmir?  
(a) 324 (b) 311  
(c) 370 (d) 356
48. Which amongst the following countries has the largest number of people of Indian Origin?  
(a) Malaysia (b) Fiji  
(c) Guyana (d) South Africa

### ANSWERS

- 1 (a) *Hindu World* by Benjamin Walker, Vol 1, P18  
2 (d) 3 (b) 4 (b) 5 (c)  
6 (c) 7 (d) 8 (c) 9 (b)  
10 (b) 11 (c) 12 (d) 13 (c)  
14 (c) 15 (b) 16 (a) 17 (b)  
18 (a) 19 (d) 20 (a) 21 (b)  
22 (c) 23 (d) 24 (d) 25 (a)  
26 (b) 27 (d) 28 (b) 29 (c)  
30 (d) 31 (c) 32 (a) 33 (d)  
34 (a) 35 (b) 36 (c) 37 (a)  
38 (c) 39 (b) 40 (b) 41 (b)  
42 (b) 43 (a) 44 (a)  
45 (c) *The Oxford History of India* by V Smith, Page 732  
46 (b) 47 (c) 48 (a)

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(to be held on September 22, 1996)

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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**UPSC Exam for Recruitment of Administrative Officers in Employees' State Insurance Corporation held on 17th December, 1995**

## USAGE

### Spotting Errors (Items 1 to 10)

#### Directions:

(i) In this section 6 sentences are given. Each sentence has three parts, indicated by (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error. If you find an error in any one of the parts (a), (b) or (c), indicate your response by blackening the letter related to that part in the Answer Sheet provided. If a sentence has no error, indicate this by blackening 'd' which stands for "No error".

(ii) Errors may belong to grammar, usage or idiom. Examples P and Q have been solved for you.

P. My friend and myself(a) study together(b) during holidays(c). No error(d).

Q. The rice from Dehradun is(a) more superior(b) to that of Saharanpur(c). No error(d).

#### Solution:

The correct answer for P is 'd' because the sentence has no mistake. The correct answer for Q is 'b' because the mistake in the sentence is in the part carrying the letter 'b'.

#### Now attempt items 1 to 10.

1. Since he has lost his only son in a recent train accident(a) he now wants(b) to dispose of all his property(c). No error(d).

2. Girish lives(a) to the next door(b) to my friend(c). No error(d).

3. I am afraid(a) you have mistaken me(b) as my brother(c). No error(d).

4. There is no dearth(a) of talents(b) in our country(c). No error(d).

5. At last the captain had said(a) "We are not going to surrender(b) to the aborigines of the forest"(c). No error(d).

6. You should not loose your temper so quickly(a). You should be(b) a little more patient(c). No error(d).

7. It is already late(a) and unless you don't hurry(b) you will not catch the train(c). No error(d).

8. I never see him wasting his

time(a) since he joined this office(b) as a clerk two years ago(c). No error(d).

9. This book(a) is different than(b) the one I bought(c). No error(d).

10. Scarcely had the bell rung(a) than the students(b) rushed out of the building(c). No error(d).

### Sentence Improvement (Items 11 to 20)

#### Directions:

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (d) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (d). Examples R and S have been solved for you.

R. The young child sung a very sweet song.

- (a) singed the
- (b) singed
- (c) sang a
- (d) No improvement.

S. I have already read this book twice.

- (a) I already twice have read this book.
- (b) I twice have already read this book.
- (c) I have twice already read this book.
- (d) No improvement.

**Explanation:** For item R, the correct sentence should read, "The young child sang a very sweet song". 'c' is therefore, the correct answer.

Item S is a correct sentence. None of the changes suggested will improve it. 'd' is therefore, the correct answer.

Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. There may be a necessary word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

#### Now attempt items 11 to 20.

11. If you find my book anywhere, please keep it on my table, can you?

- (a) won't you
- (b) will you
- (c) shouldn't you
- (d) No improvement

12. It is really difficult to stand up with the behaviour of some relatives.

- (a) to stand with
- (b) to stand up
- (c) to put up with
- (d) No improvement

13. He did not know that you are busy.

- (a) have been
- (b) will be
- (c) were
- (d) No improvement

14. It is a great pity that he lost his both legs in the accident

- (a) his all legs
- (b) both his legs
- (c) his two legs
- (d) No improvement

15. He behaved cowardly.

- (a) like a coward
- (b) with cowardice
- (c) in cowardly manner
- (d) No improvement

16. I look forward to hear from you.

- (a) to hear you
- (b) to hearing from you
- (c) to hearing you
- (d) No improvement

17. Only by shouting at the top of his voice he was able to make himself heard.

- (a) he were able to
- (b) was he able to
- (c) were he able to
- (d) No improvement

18. No sooner the police arrived than the thieves took to their heels.

- (a) No sooner the police arrive
- (b) No sooner did the police arrive
- (c) As soon as the police arrived
- (d) No improvement

19. With the new industrial policy, all my plans have been set at not.

- (a) set at naught

- (b) set at nought
- (c) set at knot
- (d) No improvement

20. I don't want to run any risk; I want a full proof method.

- (a) fool proof
- (b) foul-proof
- (c) fully proved
- (d) No improvement

### Synonyms (Items 21 to 25)

#### Directions:

In this Section you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. You may also find only a group of words which is underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined part and blacken the corresponding space on the Answer Sheet.

Example 'E' is solved for you.

E. His style is quite transparent.

- (a) verbose
- (b) involved
- (c) lucid
- (d) witty

*Explanation.* In item 'E' the word "lucid" is nearest in meaning to the word "transparent" So 'c' is the correct answer.

#### Now attempt items 21 to 25.

21. It was a paradoxical statement.

- (a) incomprehensible
- (b) inexplicable
- (c) contradictory
- (d) confusing

22. The distinctive contribution of a region with its tradition and culture is invaluable and must be preserved.

- (a) useless
- (b) commendable
- (c) appreciable
- (d) priceless

23. I heard incoherent sounds of lamentation when I passed by the mansion.

- (a) wailing
- (b) confusing
- (c) unintelligible
- (d) pathetic

24. Arid zones have a chronic shortage of water.

- (a) Hot
- (b) Tropical
- (c) Humid
- (d) Dry

25. The audience was very boisterous.

- (a) noisy
- (b) restive
- (c) restless
- (d) calm

### Antonyms (Items 26 to 30)

#### Directions:

In this section each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined

in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest to the opposite in meaning of the underlined word or phrase. Example 'F' has been solved for you.

F. Lucy is a smart girl.

- (a) lazy
- (b) active
- (c) indecent
- (d) casual

*Explanation:* The word which is nearest to the opposite in meaning to the underlined word "smart" is "lazy". So 'a' is the correct answer.

#### Now attempt items 26 to 30.

26. After meeting the holy man, his nagging mood of diffidence suddenly changed.

- (a) contentment
- (b) consternation
- (c) confusion
- (d) self-assurance

27. Many snakes are innocuous.

- (a) poisonous
- (b) harmful
- (c) deadly
- (d) ferocious

28. Recession causes unemployment.

- (a) Education
- (b) Inflation
- (c) Poverty
- (d) Computerisation

29. The two girls are always together. There is a great affinity between them.

- (a) sympathy
- (b) antipathy
- (c) empathy
- (d) apathy

30. The deliberate suavity of Dev's behaviour made the emotions of the audience volatile.

- (a) impetuosity
- (b) politeness
- (c) stupidity
- (d) pleasantness

### SELECTING WORDS

(Items 31 to 40)

#### Directions:

In the following passage at certain points you are given a choice of three words—one of which is most appropriate. Choose the best word out of the three. Mark the letter, viz., 'a', 'b', or 'c' relating to this word on your Answer Sheet. Examples 'K' and 'L' have been solved for you.

K. The river has been

- (a) rising
- (b) raising
- (c) arising

all night.

L. We built the raft

- (a) too strong
- (b) very strong
- (c) strong enough

to hold us.

Out of the list given in 'K' only "rising" is the correct word because a river cannot be raised, it rises on its own. So 'a' is the correct answer for item 'K'. For item 'L', 'c' is the correct answer. In order to solve these items you have to first read the whole sentence and then decide what is the most appropriate word in the given context.

#### Now attempt items 31 to 40.

This is essentially an age of science and technological development. This technological development goes ahead with an ever increasing tempo and it will no doubt affect the lives of men and, perhaps, may end up in their deaths. In many ways, it results in a

- 31. (a) tremendous
- (b) remarkable
- (c) little

advance and we can say with assurance that many of the problems of

- 32. (a) a country's
- (b) an old
- (c) our

society, namely, those of food, clothing housing and health services and all the

- 33. (a) poor
- (b) living
- (c) human

being requires, are capable of solution today. There is enough in the world for all and more. Therefore, the old

- 34. (a) type
- (b) cause
- (c) way

of conflict no longer exists. Yet,

- 35. (a) everything
- (b) nothing
- (c) something

is lacking. The fact is that this technological age has brought greater conflicts

- 36. (a) with
- (b) on
- (c) in

its train in spite of its promise of putting an end to conflicts.

- 37. (a) Here
- (b) There
- (c) This

again is a great contradiction, for

- 38. (a) disregarding
- (b) against
- (c) notwithstanding

the continuous talk of peaceful progress, cooperation and mutual understanding among nations, we

39. (a) plan  
(b) move  
(c) work

in contrary directions. Our knowing one another more, instead of making each of us understand and appreciate each other, often

40. (a) maintains  
(b) increases  
(c) brings

dislike of the other. How can we get over these contradictions?

## COMPREHENSION

(Items 41 to 55)

### Directions:

In this section you have four short passages. After each passage you will find several questions based on the passage. First, read Passage I, and answer the questions based on it. Then go on to the other passages. Examples I and J are solved for you.

### Passage

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise, a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make up the teeming denizens of this earth of ours. And, no matter whether they belong to the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

I. The author's main point is that

- (a) different forms of life are found on earth  
(b) different levels of existence are possible in nature  
(c) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings  
(d) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

J. Which one of the following assumptions or steps is essential in developing the author's position?

- (a) All forms of life have a single overriding goal  
(b) The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace

- (c) All beings are divided into higher and lower groups  
(d) A parallel is drawn between happiness and life, and pain and death

### Explanation.

The idea which represents the author's main point is 'peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings', which is response (c). So 'c' is the correct answer.

The best assumption underlying the passage is 'The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace', which is response (b). So 'b' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 41 to 55.

### Passage I

Her nose began to redden at the thought of her husband, who would, she felt certain, be partaking of their present joy from somewhere benevolently above Mrs Rupa Mehra believed, of course, in reincarnation, but at moments of exceptional sentiment, she imagined that the late Raghubir Mehra still inhabited the form in which she had known him when he was alive, the robust, cheerful form of his early forties....

41. Mrs Rupa Mehra's 'nose began to redden at the thought of her husband' as she felt

- (a) happy (b) excited  
(c) sentimental (d) bashful

42. Mrs Rupa Mehra felt certain that her husband 'would be partaking of the present joy' because

- (a) he was scheduled to come back from abroad before the joyous occasion  
(b) he would recover from his illness before the occasion  
(c) he would be away but would manage everything from there  
(d) he was sure to look down benevolently and bless the occasion from heaven above

43. When Mrs Mehra is thinking of her husband's 'robust, cheerful form of his early forties', she evokes the memory of her husband as

- (a) the young bridegroom when he came to marry her in 1940s  
(b) the healthy man who was no longer young but robust and active  
(c) a fat man past the prime of his life at the age of forty  
(d) a mature, successful and loving husband

### Passage II

As more and more people have painful reasons to know, the press has a nasty kind of power, the same kind of power a bully has, that of hurting somebody smaller and weaker than himself. An individual's only defence against the press is the law of libel, but considerable harm and much pain can be caused without going so far as to commit an actionable libel. Journalists themselves have a horror of being interviewed, "written up", or even noticed by the press; they know too well from their own experience how inept and cruel a distortion the result is likely to be—even in photographs—which, in the lying phrase, "cannot lie"

44. According to the above passage, which one of the following has caused considerable harm and much pain to more and more people?

- (a) Actionable libel  
(b) The power of a bully  
(c) The horror of being interviewed  
(d) Inept and cruel distortions

45. From the above passage, which one of the following definitions of 'the law of libel' seems most correct?

- (a) Defamation of a person by written means  
(b) A nasty kind of power  
(c) What enables an individual to seek action against misrepresentation  
(d) What causes considerable harm and much pain

46. According to the passage, the expression 'Cannot lie' can be applied to

- (a) photographs alone  
(b) journalists alone  
(c) any kind of representation  
(d) the power of a bully alone

47. Which one of the following statements best reflects the underlying tone of the passage?

- (a) Individuals have very little defence against the power of the press  
(b) Journalists create problems for themselves  
(c) The law of libel protects us against the power of the press  
(d) One should not hurt somebody weaker than oneself

Balance Questions and complete answers will appear in Sept '96 issue.

# Descriptive Questions

BSRB Patna Clerical Examination held on the 24th March, 1996

## Self-Employment opportunities for youth & women in villages

**Q.** A large number of our population is in villages where there are no employment opportunities for the youth and women. Suggest at least three effective measures to provide self-employment opportunities for the youth and women in villages. Explain how the measures suggested by you will be useful.

**Ans.** A continuous movement of rural youth to Indian towns and cities, in search of work—nay any type of work that can provide two square meals or even less a day—is not an ordinary phenomenon. As a result of this exodus most towns and cities have become veritable dens of crime, corruption and sub-human existence. Almost everywhere the civic services are on the brink and the fast expanding slums have become an eye sore, an epitome of filth and a fearful living accompanied by so many other social ills. Such a sordid situation has developed, not out of anybody's choice but under the stress of circumstances that we may describe as 'widespread unemployment in Indian villages'. From time to time, some patchwork solutions were suggested, some of them were even implemented with a view to creating employment opportunities in the villages, but the results have been far from satisfactory. Since we are running against time, it is in the fitness of things, that the following effective measures are adopted so that the village youth and women do not make for urban areas and become objects without identity, without recognition and without any respect.

The first and the foremost step to create self-employment for the rural youth should be to link all cultivable land with

water. In the absence of irrigation facilities or adequate as well as timely rains, most of the farmers find themselves in a 'no win' situation. As a result they rush towards towns and fall for any job to keep their body and soul together. The urgent need of the hour is to harness the water resources and make water available to those areas where it is the most immediately needed.

Traditional arts and crafts, cottage and handloom industries should be revived by providing subsidies, raw material, loans or grants to the artisans and finally by arranging marketing facilities. For the educated youth, males and females, short-term training with stipends in gas welding, motor winding, sanitary fittings, automobile mechanism and the like for males, and in nursing, family welfare programmes, social services, teaching and so on for women, can go a long way in generating self-employment avenues both for the youth and women in villages. Much can be done in other areas like masonry, carpentry, fishing, horticulture, and a host of other trades and professions with a bit of training, financial help and proper marketing.

Voluntary Organisations like SEWA, can infuse a new life and direction in the lives of rural women and thus make them reliant and self-respecting as far as their social status in our male-dominated society is concerned. Instead of treating our youth and women in villages as 'beasts of burden', their energies can be channelled into more positive, productive and profitable channels provided there is a strong will to do the right things in the right manner. Half-hearted measures and half-baked solutions would only make things more complicated.

## Agricultural automation and rural employment

**Q.** Some people feel that increasing automation in the agricultural sector is leading to rural employment. Do you agree with this? If so give three reasons as to why you agree.

If you do not agree, give three reasons as to why you do not agree.

**Ans.** Automation is the craze of the day and whether the area of human concept and concrete action take place in agriculture, industry, tele-communications, transport or even office work, the immediate impact of automation is the replacement of hands with machines and the resultant shrinkage of job or work opportunities of one type. But, with the passage of time, as automation becomes a part and parcel of all productive, distributive and marketing activities, employment or job opportunities become diversified and technical in nature and nuance. In a developing country like India, where manpower is in abundance, automation is not an unmixed blessing. If it offers a quick pace and movement with the temper of times, it creates a few problems as well in the initial stages of introduction. Since India is primarily an agricultural country, automation in agriculture, where the size of farms is not uniform, has had consequences both rewarding and rigorous. If agricultural automation has produced the miracle of 'Green Revolution' it has also forced the unskilled villagers to leave for greener pastures elsewhere with all the attendant angularities in their psyche and new places of work in urban areas.

There is no denying the fact that machines render human hands idle in the first stroke and the victims are left high and dry when highly sophisticated and auto-



matic machines are used to maximise and standardise production. The introduction of tractors, mowers, harvesters and spraying machines (for pesticides and insecticides) in agriculture has certainly accentuated the already worrying dilemma of unemployment among the rural people. But to infer that agricultural automation only leads to unemployment is to miss the point. No doubt automation results in dispensing with manual labour of one type but it encourages employment in skilled areas like agricultural engineering, in all its hues.

Opinion on the proposition remains sharply divided. If unemployment in the villages due to agricultural automation is a fact, one cannot turn one's face away from the diversity of employment avenues in other areas where prosperity in agriculture has made its presence and contribution in abundance. The introduction of centrally sponsored schemes like the Nehru Rozgar Yojana, is an ample proof of the ground reality that in villages, the poor and the landless are the worst victims of automation in most of the Indian States. Since no statement carries the whole truth, we should not be carried away by one or the other statement in a fit of anger or exultation.

### Uniform incentives for Cultivation

**Q.** Suppose every person living in a village has a plot of land of the same area and each one is provided with the same lucrative incentives for cultivation. Give important consequences of this situation.

**Ans.** If by some decree or massive change of heart, every person living in a village comes to possess a plot of land, same in size and lucrative incentives, it would mean a long cherished dream come true for millions of landless villagers who have been living in abject poverty and deprivation since ages. The conferment of ownership rights on such a stupendous scale, along with other supportive measures, would usher in an era of socio-economic equality among a very

large segment of population that still lives on farming.

Under the new situation, the forced migration of landless labourers to towns and cities would be halted to a great extent. Each owner of the plot of land would see to it that he makes the best use of the land under his control and thus fights the scourge of penury with all might and motivation. In a way, this would spare the growing towns from the further pressure of incoming population in search of work because each villager would concentrate on improving the yield from his land. Such a revolutionary transformation in the status of millions would mean a giant step towards a classless society where each would have the same piece of land with almost equal opportunities to make the best of the available resource at his disposal. The curse of exploitation at the hands of others would disappear to a considerable extent.

Another significant consequence of the new dispensation could be seen in the lives of those villagers who had been living below the poverty line since long. Now on a plot of land given to them by the 'powers that be' a new chapter in their lives would begin. They would see light across the dark tunnel of their lives. The goal of complete literacy among the poorest of the poor and elimination of child labour would become targets that have eluded accomplishment so far. The purchasing power of the new class of land owners would go up, affecting positively many other areas of economic activity and consumerist culture. In short, the face and fate of millions would lighten up with cheerfulness and a sense of pride in their new possession of a plot of land.

### Raising standard of living of rural population

**Q.** Suggest at least three effective measures to raise the living standard of rural population of our country. Explain how each of the measures suggested by you will be useful.

**Ans.** Raising the standard of living of rural masses is an uphill task indeed. But

if there is a will on the part of 'powers that be' and the other affluent sections of our social hierarchy, the ways can be found to achieve this very laudable goal. Despite a number of 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes' in operation for the rural poor, not much seems to have been achieved as far as the living conditions of the poor in rural areas is concerned. Since we are running against the temper and tenor of time, we have no option but to go the whole hog in raising the living standards of our rural population. It is already too late in the day and any further dithering or delay can cause unheard of upheavals or calamity. The following measures can prove quite effective if taken in the right earnest now.

First of all, it is highly imperative that the earning avenues and capacity of the rural masses should be enhanced by executing all employment generating schemes for villages, expeditiously. Those incharge of such measures should be made accountable for their acts of commission and omission. Local resources should be put to the optimum use but care should be taken that only such enterprises or the industries flourish that are eco-friendly.

Social services, like water, electricity, health care and family welfare, schools, roads, sanitation and the like, should get top priority because in the absence of these, no meaningful improvement would take place in the area of raising the living standard. Besides fighting the dragon of poverty on all fronts, the growing graph of population needs to be put down either by persuasion or if need be, by putting pressure on unwilling couples. Unless we control this growing menace, there is very little chance of bettering the lot of those who are struggling to survive.

Empowerment of women and eradication of prejudices against people in the name of caste, community or creed, should be thrown out lock, stock and barrel. Unnecessary litigation, wasteful social functions and empty rituals should be given a go bye. Universal education for all, irrespective of age or sex, should be made compulsory.

## CAREER

# Civil Services (Main) Examination: A Tough Challenge

It goes without saying that Civil Services have retained their charm and attraction for millions of youth, notwithstanding the host of lucrative jobs offered by private sector of late. During the last about one decade, a variety of very good jobs have been made available to various categories of graduates and post-graduates, particularly in the private sector. However, the Civil Services, despite their relatively lesser remunerations, still continue to be one of the most sought after careers among the millions of young aspirants. This is supported by the fact that the number of candidates taking Preliminary Examination for the Civil Services continues to be very high.

### Scheme of Examination

The entry to this coveted career has three phases. The first being a Preliminary Examination followed by the Main Examination and finally the Interview or the personality test. The main objective of the Preliminary Examination is to act as a screening test to weed out the non-serious candidates. Only the candidates who are declared qualified at the Preliminary Examinations are allowed to appear in the Main Examination. Main Exam is then followed by a personality test in the form of an Interview conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). While the marks obtained in the Preliminary Examination are only qualifying in nature and are not counted while drawing up the final merit list, the performance of a candidate in the Main Examination and Interview is added to arrive at the final merit list.

Main Examination is conventional, essay-type in nature. In all, there are nine pa-

pers. Paper I and II are again qualifying in nature and the remaining papers are evaluated only if a candidate qualifies both these papers. The marks obtained in these papers are not included in the final merit. In addition, there are two papers on General Studies, two papers each for two optional subjects and one recently added paper on Essay. The marks obtained in all these papers are added to draw up a merit list, on the basis of which the candidates are called for interview. There is no prescribed pass percentage and a candidate is declared to be qualified on the basis of his/her performance and number of vacancies. Generally, the number of candidates called for interview is double the number of vacancies available for that particular year.

### Choice of Optionals

One of the most crucial decisions which a candidate is required to take, is the correct choice of optionals. This choice cannot be left to be made after passing the Preliminary Examination. Immediately after appearing in the Prelims, generally in June, the serious candidates must start preparations for the Mains. Generally, one of the optionals should be the optional subject opted during the Prelims, unless there are specific reasons not to do so. The subject opted for Paper-II during Prelims is the one in which either the candidate has higher academic qualifications or in which the candidate is highly confident in doing well. In both the cases this subject becomes an automatic choice as one of the optionals in the Mains.

Choice of second optional is also very important. Depending upon the aptitude

of the candidate, previous preparations, availability of coaching and good books, specific studies by the candidates and previous experience by other candidates about the level of marks generally scored in a particular subject, a candidate may choose the second optional.

Both the Optional subjects have 2 papers each of 3-hour duration carrying a maximum of 300 marks each. In other words, all the four papers in two optional subjects carry a maximum of 1200 marks. The candidates have the option of answering the questions in all the optional subjects (except the language papers) either in English or in Hindi. Papers on General Studies are of 300 marks each with 3 hours as permissible time.

Preparation for the optionals is another significant aspect which needs to be looked into carefully. Firstly selection and procurement of relevant books is required. While choosing the books, it should be carefully checked up and ensured that the entire syllabus prescribed is covered by the said book(s). Assistance may be sought from the lecturers/professors of the subject concerned as well as candidates who had recently appeared or currently appearing in the Civil Services (Main) Examination with the same subject. A good choice of books would mean that half the battle is already won. After selecting the books, one must plan the studies considering the existing knowledge/studies of both the optional as well as General Studies on the one hand and the total availability of time on the other. While the endeavour should be to cover the entire syllabus, on the basis of questions/topics asked in a few previous question papers, more preparation should be done for the important and expected questions/topics. If required, de-

tailed discussion should be held on the expected topics with the fellow candidates or any other knowledgeable person in the concerned field/subject.

## General Studies

General Studies papers have special significance and require special attention. While most of the candidates are expected to do very well in optionals, the General Studies paper is the one which determines the merit. Special preparations are required for General Studies as most of the universities do not teach General Studies as an integrated academic subject. It is not possible to pin-point the detailed syllabus for General Studies, but broadly speaking, the areas covered by these two papers can clearly be demarcated.

Paper-I on the GS includes Modern History of India and Indian Culture, Current Events of National and International importance, statistics, analysing graphs, diagrams and questions of common sense. Questions on the ideology of Gandhi, Tagore and Nehru are also asked. Statistical Analysis and the questions of common sense are generally aimed at judging the capability of the candidates to draw common sense conclusions and point out inconsistencies and deficiencies in the given information.

GS Paper-II covers Indian Polity and Constitution, Indian Economy and Geography and the important and relevant areas in Science and Technology in India. In addition, the questions on Planning in India, economic development, economic geography and applied sciences also appear, which are particularly relevant in the present day situation. It may be noted that there is no book which completely covers the entire syllabus of the General Studies. It is better to refer to various books on different disciplines so that no area remains unprepared. A good book on Modern History supported by NCERT text books would enable one to get a good idea of modern History including the important events. For covering current events, regular reading of a good national newspaper, supplemented by a competitive magazine like the *Competition Master* is required. In fact,

the candidates aspiring to join these esteemed services need to read the said magazine for several years to get in touch with the current affairs/topics. For the beginners and freshers, it is better to get a quick idea of the background of the current affairs, which is adequately provided in a book titled as "Current Affairs and Backgrounders" published by M/s Khanna Brothers (Publishers), Chandigarh. A basic book on statistics can provide a good insight into the statistical analysis, drawing conclusions and reading the tables and diagrams correctly.

For preparing Paper-II of the G.S., a good book on Indian Political Systems and Constitution is a pre-requisite. Details of latest budgets, a copy of the latest Five-Year document, latest pre-budget Economic Survey are some of the documents which provide a candidate with authentic sources of economic data and information. Articles regularly published in this magazine are also of great assistance. In addition, a good book of General Knowledge, like the "General Knowledge Refresher" by O.P. Khanna, is also of great use. The year book, published every year by the Publication Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also carries rich material on the General Studies and should be consulted. Depending upon the background of the candidate specific areas may be chosen on which more effort could be put. This magazine also provides special features for this purpose in which solved questions of the previous years' question papers are given, which can be of immense use.

Detailed time planning and more and more studies are the key to success. It must be ensured that more time is devoted to the areas in which the candidate is ignorant. A judicious balance of time to be devoted towards various aspects of General Studies is also of paramount importance. Dividing of the time to be devoted for General Studies and the optionals may vary from individual to individual and no set formula can be recommended for this.

## Coaching Vs Self-Study

Nowadays, there has been a mush-

room growth of institutions providing Coaching for the Civil Services (Main) Examination. Both, coaching and self-study have their advantages and disadvantages. Coaching by a good and reputed institution may assist a fresher to gain more self-confidence. It may also assist the old candidates to do better. But one must beware of the institutions whose main aim is to mint money by cheating the aspiring candidates.

Self-study has its own advantages. A lot of time is wasted in commuting up and down to the coaching institution. Moreover, even while devoting scarce time to various subjects and topics, one is at liberty to decide on the basis of existing levels of preparations and importance of the topic concerned. While in a coaching institute there is no such choice and one has to study whatever is taught, irrespective of individual needs.

This does not mean that coaching is not recommended at all. Several private coaching institutions have a high success rate year after year. There are several institutions providing coaching as per personal needs of the candidates.

Self-confidence, determination and will to succeed are other factors. A candidate having all these qualities, along with sound preparations, has a fair chance of succeeding.

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

### POLITICAL

#### Gowda govt wins vote of confidence

ON June 12, 1996, the Congress backed United Front government, headed by Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, proved its majority in the House. Mr Deve Gowda pledged to root out corruption, fulfil the basic needs of the people and safeguard the nation's security.

The one-line motion was passed after a seven-hour debate, spread over two days, which was marked by sharp exchanges with main opposition party, the BJP.

On June 28, 1996, Prime Minister Deve Gowda expanded his ministry. History was created with the inclusion of communists in the government. Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary, Mr Indrajit Gupta, has been inducted as the Home Minister of India. The other CPI member to be made a Union Minister is Mr Chaturanan Mishra.

However, the expansion of the Cabinet was not smooth. A shadow was cast over the oath-taking proceedings when Mr Jalappa—a former Revenue Minister in Karnataka—after taking the oath of secrecy, walked off in a huff, reportedly because he had not been given cabinet rank. Later on he was elevated to the Cabinet rank. To accommodate Mr Srikant Jena, the PM had to take Mr D.K. Ray, a protege of former Orissa Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, who was initially strongly opposed to Mr Jena being inducted in the Union Cabinet. Similarly, pressures from Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav to induct his men prevented the lone JD MP from J & K, Mr Mohammed Maqbool Dar, and women MPs such as Kamala Sinha from being inducted into the Union Cabinet.

The induction of the controversial Rajya Sabha MP from Orissa, Mr Dilip Ray, was also a cause of embarrassment for Mr

#### Recent Economic News

On June 12, 1996, the Union government announced its annual budget for 1996-97. The budget is expected to be a landmark one as it marks the first time since 1971 that the government has not increased the tax on corporate income. The budget also provides for a 10% increase in the tax on corporate income, which is expected to be a landmark one as it marks the first time since 1971 that the government has not increased the tax on corporate income.

Each industry and business has been asked to give a response plan for reduction in expenditure and also provide an alternative expenditure reduction programme which would help in budget savings.

In the Finance Ministry, the government has decided to increase the budgetary allocation to the Central government employees for pay and allowances from 1997-98 onwards.

However, within twenty four hours of the announcement of the 1996-97 centrally sponsored scheme, the United Front Government found itself in a jam. As many as 12 major trade unions threatened to call off the dogs over the proposal of wage freeze. The CPI(M) and CPI, partners of the UF, questioned the propriety of decision without its being discussed at the steering committee. Already the unions have been hard pressed because of the fall in creation of jobs since January 1995. And the unions have emphatically stated that their measures would tantamount to insult to an injury.

Finance Ministry sources clarified that the centrally sponsored scheme would not lead to any wage freeze in real terms and the Pay Pay Commission's recommendations would be given due consideration.

Deve Gowda. Mr Ray's houses and business establishments in Bhubaneswar, Puri and Rourkela were raided by the State vigilance department only a day earlier. Mr Ray has been accused of amassing assets, amounting to Rs 5.52 crore, which are disproportionate to his income.

#### Hegde, Maneka expelled from JD

SOON after winning the vote of confidence for the Deve Gowda government, the Janata Dal (JD) hit back at his *bete noire*, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, by expelling him from the party for six years for anti-party activities and "evil design" to weaken the Dal.

In a statement, JD President Laloo Prasad Yadav said that Mr Hegde's recent statements about Prime Minister Deve Gowda and about the alliance of the United Front and its policies were clearly against discipline.

After his expulsion from the Janata Dal, Mr Hegde announced his decision to float a forum called the Rashtriya Nav Nirman Veditika (national reconstruction Forum). He made it clear that it would be apolitical to start with. The forum aims at highlighting people's problems and will fight against injustice. However, he indicated that the forum could be converted into a political party if circumstances made it "absolutely necessary".

On July 5, 1996, JD expelled Maneka Gandhi for six years on charges of indiscipline after she launched a public attack on Prime Minister Deve Gowda for approving the Congentrix power project in Karnataka.

Maneka Gandhi's expulsion is likely to affect the prospects of JD in the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. She was one of the two party MPs elected from the State.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

### SCANDALS

#### And now the Urea Scam

**Y**ET another scam dating back to P.V. Narasimha Rao's regime has been exposed. It involves, besides others, former Prime Minister Rao's kins and son of former Union Minister of Fertilisers and Chemicals.

The National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) had entered into a long-term contract with a Turkish firm, Karsan Limited, for a supply of 2 lakh metric tonnes urea at a price of US \$ 190 per metric tonne, on cost and freight basis. The contract was signed on November 9, 1995 for a total value of US \$ 38 million. Mr C.K. Ramakrishnan, Managing Director, NFL (under suspension from May 24, 1996), approved the deal, exceeding his delegated powers.

The terms of the contract envisaged 100 per cent advanced payment to the seller who was to supply urea within five months of the payment. At the request of Karsan Limited, NFL credited the amount of the US \$ 37.62 million to their account at Pictet Bank, Geneva, Switzerland, on December 5, 1995. Later, one per cent of the contract value was released to enable the seller to take a Lloyds Insurance Policy,

which was purported to cover the risk against non-performance as well as non-delivery of urea. On February 13, 1996, during a review of the performance of the canalising agencies, NFL was unable to provide firm shipping details against the contracts. Managing Director of NFL maintained silence. However, the issue surfaced into prominence on March 22, 1996, when it appeared in the *Financial Express*.

Later, three teams were deputed to Ankara, Turkey, in April, to make an on the spot assessment of the party's credentials as well as their inclination to perform. Based on the assessment that the urea would not be forthcoming, on April 25, 1996, the CBI was entrusted the assignment to look into the matter. On May 15, the fraudulent nature of the deal surfaced with a revelation that the Lloyds Insurance Policy was only a marine insurance and did not cover the risk of non-performance by the seller. Later, after getting concurrence, on June 1, 1996, the CBI arrested C.K. Ramakrishnan and D.S. Kanwar, the then ED (Marketing) NFL.

The CBI's piercing interrogations picked up during the first half of June 1996. It served notice on Prabhakar Rao, son of the former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha

Rao, and grilled him for hours over the issue, while he pleaded innocence. In the meantime, Ramakrishnan confessed that it was Sanjeeva Rao, son-in-law of former Prime Minister Rao's son Rajeshwar Rao, who influenced him in awarding the contract to Sai Krishna Impex, the Indian agent of Karsan. Subsequently, the CBI, on June 18, arrested key suspects Sanjeeva Rao and Prakash Chandra Yadav, son of former Union Minister. It is alleged that the two have received kickbacks through hawala mode from M. Sambasiva Rao, CEO of Sai Krishna Impex, Hyderabad, C.K. Ramakrishnan and D.S. Kanwar.

#### JMM Bribery Case

**T**HE ensuing JMM MPs bribery case took new twist on June 12, 1996 when CBI named the former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and four of his erstwhile Cabinet colleagues in its fresh FIR. The fresh FIR, the fifth in the case, came in the wake of Supreme Court's refusal to interfere with the interim direction of the Delhi High Court to the CBI.

The Delhi High Court, on May 24, 1996, had passed severe strictures against CBI and directed it to 'forthwith register regular case' based on the complaint of petitioner. The petitioner, Mr Ravinder Kumar, President of Rashtriya Mukti Morcha, is contesting that Rao Government survived the test of strength on the floor of the House in July 1993 by indulging in 'political horse-trading and violation of constitutional morality'. Complaints filed by the petitioner on February 1, 1996 mentioned name of Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and his then Cabinet colleagues, Mr V.C. Shukla, Mr Bhajan Lal, Captain Satish Sharma, Mr R.K. Dhawan, Mr Ajit Singh and industrialist Lalit Suri. The complaint had alleged that Rs three crore were paid to the MPs to secure their vote.

#### Sasikala arrested for FERA offences

**A**FTER ostracizing summons for nearly nine months, Ms Sasikala was ar-

### Recent Economic News

#### Public Sector Disinvestment Commission

The economic policy excerpts from the United Front Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP) envisage withdrawal of the public sector from 'Non-core' and 'Non Strategic' areas. The UF government has proposed to constitute a Disinvestment Commission which will advise government in this matter. This step was necessary as since 1980 return on capital employed in PSUs has not exceeded even mere 3 per cent. In 1993-94 the total capital employed was about Rs 100,000 crore with profits only Rs 4435 crore, being 2.8 per cent only. A panel of ministers, to be headed by the Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, has been constituted to trim the size of public sector by selling off the sick units and also divest part of government's equity stake to the private sector. It will also investigate the possibility of winding up of mega projects which have failed to take off or incurred just 5 per cent of approved cost or have had 60 per cent or more time overrun. Revenue generated from such disinvestment will be utilised in vital areas like health and education.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

rested on June 20, 1996 in Madras. Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha's close associate and a director of the private TV channel, JJ TV, Ms Sasikala was first served summons in September 1995. These summons were served for offenses, to the tune of Rs 6.18 crore in two different cases, committed under FERA Act. One involved the payments of \$ 5,00,000 to an American firm for getting uplinking facility for the Tamil Television channel, JJ TV, whose managing director V. Bhaskaran is her nephew. V.N. Sudhakaran, Ms Jayalalitha's foster son, is another director of the company.

Though Mr Bhaskaran was arrested in September 1995, Ms Sasikala was absenting herself from the court on one account or another. Finally the high drama ended with her arrest which followed ten hours of interrogation.

## INDIA-PAKISTAN

### Benazir offers unconditional talks; doubts remain

SINCE January 1994 there had been no dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve the disputes. The taking over of Prime Minister Deve Gowda ignited a slight hope when Pakistan's Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, offered unconditional talks with India.

India reciprocated the gesture without loss of any time and proposed immediate resumption of secretary-level talks to resolve bilateral differences. However, India maintained that the promotion of trade, economic and cultural contacts should remain high on the agenda.

Indo-Pak dialogue had remained stalled after the seventh round of foreign secretary-level talks in January 1994. Since then, India had made several offers for resumption of talks "at any time, any place and any level".

The euphoria created by Ms Bhutto's offer died soon. On July 18, 1996, Paki-

## Recent Economic News

### GDP estimated to grow six per cent

According to the Reserve Bank of India's "Report on Currency and Finance, 1994-95", the overall growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), during 1995-96, is expected to be around 6 per cent. The current deficit in Balance of Payments (BoP) is estimated at around 1.5 per cent of GDP.

During 1995-96, broad money showed an increase of Rs 69,071 crore, or 13 per cent, till March 31, 1996. Reserve money expansion was at Rs 25,053 crore. The major factor accounting for the increase in reserve money was RBI credit to the government.

The aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks rose by Rs 45,486 crore (11.8 per cent) in 1995-96 up to March 29, 1996. Notwithstanding the moderate deposit growth, non-food credit increased by Rs 43,023 crore (21.6 per cent). The incremental non-food credit/deposit ratio in 1995-96 was 94.6 per cent.

On the agricultural front, the RBI estimates grain output in kharif 1995 to be lower at 99.7 million tonnes as against the target of 107.5 million tonnes and the actual out-turn of 100.6 million tonnes in 1994.

stan, in a sudden reversal of its offer, expressed "difficulty" in resuming negotiations with India because of the continued "deadlock" over the Kashmir dispute. Prime Minister Bhutto's remarks on Kashmir on Pakistan Television, on June 30, 1996, in her address to the nation, cast fresh doubts on bilateral talks.

In her address, Benazir termed the recent elections in Kashmir as "fraudulent". She also accused the Indian leaders of not having the courage to resolve the Kashmir issue.

## INDIA-USA

### Anti-India Bill defeated

THE anti-India lobby suffered a major set-back on June 5, 1996, when the US House of Representatives rejected by 297 to 126 a bill seeking to cut around 8.3 million dollars, for its so-called human rights excesses, from the 57 million dollars development aid earmarked for India during 1997. The US Congressman Dan Burton, who is known for his anti-India views, had moved the bill.

Apart from the members of the Indian Caucus, consisting of Congressmen which strives to strengthen Indo-US rela-

tions, Burton's amendment faced fierce criticism from Republican legislative leaders like Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of International relations Committee and Douglas Bereuter, Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Sub-Committee. Resting their arguments on India's established democratic credential, Indian economic reform and emergence of India as US's largest trading partner, speakers criticised the amendment. They expressed themselves on commonality of threat, both to US and India, from the Islamic fundamentalist terrorism.

## INDIA-SRI LANKA

### Ties get a boost

FOREIGN Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Lakshman Kadirgamar made a two-day high-profile visit to India on June 22, 1996. His goodwill visit helped to further strengthen relationship between the two countries.

Prime Minister Deve Gowda gave an assurance to the visiting foreign minister that there would be no support for the LTTE.

Mr Kadirgamar also conveyed that Sri Lanka has decided to support India, and



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

not Japan, for a non-permanent slot in the UN Security Council. On CTBT he said that Sri Lanka appreciated India's viewpoint.

On the recent Pakistani request for Sri Lankan good offices to resume the Indo-Pak dialogue, Mr Kadirgamar said that Sri Lanka has no ambition to mediate. He added that Indo-Pak dialogue should best take place bilaterally under the Shimla agreement.

**Ban on LTTE extended:** On June 13, 1996, the Union Cabinet decided to continue the ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for another two years. The ban was to expire on June 14, 1996.

LTTE was banned following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. There has since been ample evidence, rejected by the LTTE though, of the organisation's hand in the assassination of the former Prime Minister.

### KARNATAKA

#### Crisis engulf ranks

**E**LEVATION of H.D. Deve Gowda to the Prime Ministership has left Karnataka with leadership crisis. To satisfy various groups and interests, a jumbo 46-member Ministry, with 23 first-timers, was sworn in on June 5, 1996. Earlier, on May 31, a two-member Janata Dal ministry headed by J.H. Patel assumed office in the State. Patel's ministry has obscured Ramakrishna Hegde's record of 45-member ministry which was formed in April 1987.

But, this could hardly demure dissidents. Within 24 hours of the swearing in of new members, 17 legislators piqued at the Cabinet formations tendered their resignations. By June 7, the number of dissidents swelled to 20.

While rebel leaders were demanding for a new leader in place of Chief Minister J.H. Patel. The ongoing dissidence in the Patel Government has been traced to the Hegde-Gowda spat. For the time being

Janata Dal has been able to tide over the crisis. Mr Hegde has also indicated that he does not intend to split JD and bring the government down. The relief, however, seems to be temporary.

### ASSAM

#### ULFA continues to haunt the State Politics

**A**SOM Gana Parishad's coming to power was expected to give a boost to efforts to solve the insurgency problem. The euphoria of AGP victory is yet to subside, however, people have already started to doubt the capability of the new government.

The spurt in killing by the ULFA, including former Congress minister Nagan Neog and several others in the Golaghat district and various other incidents are reasons behind this.

In his first press conference after the installation of the AGP ministry, Chief Minister Mohanta said that his government favoured talks with the insurgent outfits including the ULFA and the Bodo Security Force (BDSF). Recently the ULFA responded by saying that it was not prepared for talks so long as the Army operations continued. Mr Mohanta has reacted to the

statement by saying that the Army operations would continue in the State till violence ends.

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### No trace of foreign hostages

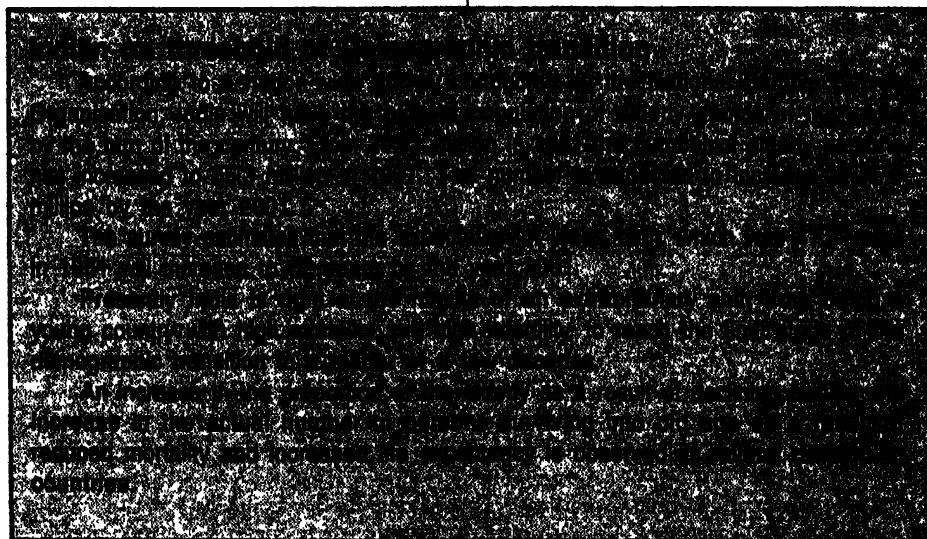
**O**N July 4, 1996 the four western tourists kidnapped by the Al-Faran militant group, while trekking through the Himalayas in South Kashmir, completed one year in captivity. This is the longest hostage crisis in Kashmir.

Earlier, a former MLA of Bihar, Pankaj Sinha, had been rescued by the security forces after 362 days of captivity.

In case of the Western hostages, a rescue operation was ruled out from the outset, for fear that they might be killed.

The Al-Faran militant group that admitted responsibility for the abductions, broke off contact with the authorities in November, 1995, following the government's refusal to swap three jailed militants for the hostages. Subsequent direct contact between the Al-Faran and western diplomats was snapped around Christmas. Since then the Al-Faran has been insisting that the Army rescued the hostages during an encounter at Dabrun in Anantnag in December, 1995.

The Army confirms the encounter as





## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

also the killing of Al-Faran chief, Hamid Turki, but it denies having rescued the hostages.

The final outcome of the crisis is difficult to guess. While the government has stuck to its policy of no swap (of jailed militants for hostages), the Al-Faran, for its part, has shown no signs of fatigue, unless the hostages are already dead.

### PLANNING & ECONOMY

#### Massive hike in Petroleum products

ON July 2, 1996, the Deve Gowda government took a big gamble by effecting a 25 per cent on-the-board hike in prices of all petroleum products except kerosene. While the petrol prices were increased by 25 per cent, cooking gas and diesel prices increased by 30 per cent.

The revision, the first after February 2, 1994, has been effected to reduce the burden on the oil Pool Account, which stood at Rs 5,700 crore at the end of 1995-96. The government had been warned that the outstanding would rise to Rs 11,700 crore by the year-end if the prices of petroleum products are not raised.

The revised estimated subsidy on petro-products would now be to the tune of Rs 8000 crore. Out of this kerosene alone accounts for Rs 4,870 crore.

#### RBI cuts CRR, eases deposit interest norms

EFFECTIVE July 6, 1996, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for banks to 12 per cent, from 13 per cent. Refinance against government securities has also been withdrawn.

The minimum period for which domestic term deposits can be accepted by banks has been reduced from 46 days to 30 days. Banks would also be allowed to determine their own rates for domestic term deposits with a maturity of over one year. The deposit rate upto one year has

been fixed at "not exceeding 11 per cent per annum" against the present prescription of "not exceeding 12 per cent per annum" upto two years.

The cuts in CRR would release Rs 4,100 crore to the banks. The cut in CRR and the freeing of deposit rates over one year would improve the profits of banks and also lead to increased deposit mobilisation.

#### India sets record in software exports

ACCORDING to annual export estimates of India's electronics and software industry, India has registered an impressive growth in computer software and services export. As against exports of electronics and computer software worth Rs 3,808 in 1994-95, in 1995-96 the exports increased to Rs 6,375 crore. The increase was particularly high in computer software and services, where it increased to Rs 2650 crore in 1995-96, from Rs 1,474 crore in 1994-95. Against 80 per cent increase in software, in hardware the increase was to the tune of 49 per cent.

### CAPITAL MARKET

#### Panel on Capital Market set-up

FORMER Unit Trust of India Chairman, Dr S.A. Dave, will head a high-power committee to prepare a report on the infrastructure agenda for capital markets. The report would work out a framework of "a modern, efficient and well-structured capital market which can raise Rs one lakh crore by the year 2000". The report will also focus on ways to channel household savings into the market.

### LAW POINT

#### Telecom, Railways brought under MRTP Act

IN a landmark judgement, the Monopolistic & Restrictive Trade Practices

Commission (MRTPC) has stated that the provisions of the MRTP Act are applicable to government departments rendering 'non-sovereign functions or services', if they are found indulging in restrictive, monopolistic or unfair trade practices. Government services in the areas of Telecommunication, Transport, including Railways, and Housing are among the areas the MRTPC can look into in the given context.

The judgement was passed by a two-member bench of the Commission comprising of Mr Sardar Ali and Dr S. Chakravathy on an application by Mr Giri Prasad against the irrigation department of Uttar Pradesh government.

Stating that a service provided free of charge will not come under the purview of the Act, the bench, however, observed that services provided by any entity for a fee will definitely be considered under the Act. Further, the Act will take into account all the services made available to all potential users.

### PATENTS

#### CSIR will challenge US patent on 'haldi'

THE Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will challenge the US patent, granted to two non-resident Indians, on the wound-healing properties of turmeric (*haldi*) and appeal for its revocation.

The patent will be challenged because the wound-healing properties of turmeric constitute a "prior art" and are well documented in the scientific literature in different languages of India.

CSIR's intellectual property management division head N.R. Subbaram said the patent should not have been granted in the US because the "invention" lacks novelty and is obvious. "Novelty" and "non-obvious" are two important criteria for granting a patent.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## INTERNATIONAL

### NUCLEAR WEAPONS CTBT talks end without consensus

A two-year effort to achieve a permanent worldwide ban on the testing of nuclear weapons faltered in Geneva on June 28, 1996, as disappointed negotiators said they failed to reach an agreement before the June 28 deadline.

Marred by a fractions argument over the procedure for ratifying a test ban treaty, as well as by a general objection raised by the Indian government, negotiators to the UN-sponsored conference, from 61 governments, have now agreed to reconvene in late July, in the hope that all outstanding issues can be resolved by then.

A test ban treaty has been a dream of some nations, including India, for three decades. Apart from environmental benefits, experts maintain that the inability to conduct tests would keep non-nuclear powers from gaining the confidence to develop nuclear weapons. It would also make it much harder for the nuclear powers to invent new ones.

However, India has outrightly rejected the draft CTBT, which does not address the problem of universal disarmament, but perpetuates the monopoly of the nuclear weapon States. "This was not the CTBT that India envisaged in 1954. This cannot be the CTBT that India can be expected to accept", said Ms Arunashati Ghose, Indians Ambassador to the UN in Geneva.

Since January 1994, when the Conference on Disarmament adopted a mandate to negotiate a CTBT, India had been echoing her views in favour of a genuinely comprehensive test ban treaty that would lead the world towards abolition of nuclear weapons. India has strongly been advocating a ban on all tests, including the so-called safety and reliability or sub-critical test. Besides, India had been asking the nuclear powers to commit

themselves to a time-bound framework within which they will eliminate their nuclear arsenals. India's insistence on blanket ban has irked the five declared powers—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—also referred to as P-5.

Attributing the present draft as inconsistent and discriminatory in approach, India has termed it as it is detrimental to her security needs. Recent Chinese underground nuclear test, which was carried out on June 8, 1996, and reported deployment of nuclear capable Chinese M-11 missiles by Pakistan vindicate India's concern for its security.

Responding to differences, the negotiating Chairman, Jaap Ramaker of Netherlands, expressed his confidence that during an extra month given to sort out differences, the CTBT would finally be ready for signatures in the United Nations in New York, in September 1996.

Meanwhile, India's External Affairs Minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, has said that India will not walk out of the conference when it re-convenes, hoping that "our principled point of view gets understood". He also ruled out isolation of India at CTBT talks.

### RUSSIA Impressive win for Yeltsin

ON July 4, 1996, President Boris Yeltsin swept to an impressive victory in the Russian Presidential runoff to halt the resurgent communists' bid to revive the Soviet Union and reinforce a regimented economy. President Yeltsin secured 53.7 per cent votes in comparison to 40.41 per cent secured by his communist rival Gennady Zyuganov.

Immediately after assuming office, 65-year-old Yeltsin re-appointed Viktor Chernomyrdin as Russia's Prime Minister.

In the first round, held on June 16, 1996, President Yeltsin had scored a narrow victory over second-placed Zyuganov, but was not able to cross the barrier of 50

per cent votes necessary to win the elections.

Earlier, in order to consolidate his electorate before the second round of elections President Yeltsin had named General Alexander Lebed, the third-place winner of the first round, as the new chairman of Russia's powerful Security Council. At the same time he fired his long-time Defence Minister, General Pavel Grachev, who has been widely blamed for the Russian army's poor performance against separatist rebels in Chechnya and rampant corruption in military. Gen Lebed had demanded that Gen Grachev be sacked as part of his price for joining the Yeltsin team.

### MIDDLE EAST Arabs a worried lot as Netanyahu is sworn in Israeli PM

BENJAMIN Netanyahu was sworn-in Israel's most powerful Prime Minister promising to pursue Middle East peace while keeping captured land, a strategy that Arab leaders feel is doomed.

The 120-seat parliament approved his Likud-led Coalition of right-wingers, Rabbinis, settlers and former generals by 62 votes to 50, on June 19, 1996.

Addressing the parliament Mr Netanyahu said, "I want to appeal today to our neighbours in the Palestinian authority and to say that on the basis of maintaining security we are willing to develop with you a real partnership of peace, good neighbourly relations and cooperation." However, he said no to a Palestinian State with its capital in east Jerusalem, no to a return of the Golan Heights to Syria and yes to a resumption of settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Reacting to Mr Netanyahu's statements Egypt warned that his hardline positions risk damaging the fragile peace process. Other Arab leaders said that Netanyahu's opposition to land for peace

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## INTERNATIONAL

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made US-sponsored peace talks futile.

**Cairo summit:** Prime Minister Netanyahu's hardline stand prompted the Arab leaders to convene the first Arab summit in six years. The summit was hosted by Egypt in Cairo. The last summit had been held in the wake of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Fourteen Heads of State and representatives of seven other Arab League members attended the summit. Iraq was not invited. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi arrived in Cairo aboard a Libyan airliner that flew directly from his own country in violation of UN sanctions. The Security Council had put diplomatic sanctions on Libya, in 1992, to pressure it to hand over the two Libyans allegedly involved in the 1988 bombing of an American jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

The two-day summit was marked as much by splits among themselves as by worries that Israeli Prime Minister would renege on existing peace agreement. In a communique issued after the summit, the Arab countries urged Israel to accept giving up occupied land in exchange for peace and threatened that they would re-consider their own stance if Israel's new government takes a hardline in negotiations.

"If Netanyahu's government withdraws from past agreements or delays implementing them, it will lead to a relapse of the process with all the dangers that carries in taking the region back to the whirlpool of tension", the communique said.

The communique specifically urged, Israel to withdraw from the Golan, Lebanon and Arab East Jerusalem which it is said should be the capital of Palestine.

Israel, however, rejected the demands of the Arab leaders, to give up occupied land. It said it (Israel) was not subject to the dictates from the Arab world. Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel called any such pre-conditions "incompatible with

peace negotiations" and said that they "must be removed". He added that negotiations towards a final settlement with the Palestinian Authority would continue "provided it keeps its obligations, including blocking Islamic militant attacks against Israel".

The hardline Israeli stand is expected to force the Arabs to change tactics too. The main Arab tactic is likely to be a slowing-down of the budding economic links and denying the Israelis the access they want to the Arab market.

## SUMMITS

### G-7 Summit

ON June 27, 1996, leaders of the G-7 gathered at Lyon, France, for a three-day summit on global economic strategy. The terrorist bomb attack in Saudi Arabia resulted in the issue of terrorism to be put on top of the agenda. The main theme of the summit was: "How to ease the financial burden of the world's poorest, most heavily indebted countries."

After denouncing the scourge of international terrorism, the G-7—USA, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy—leaders hailed lowered trade barriers and other economic reforms for creating big opportunities for the future. They, however, also acknowledged that not all workers or countries of the world had benefitted equally from the new global economy. They warned those nations who were slow in making the needed economic reforms could be hurt by the rising competition.

In their communique, the leaders said the economic risks were the greatest for the world's poorest countries. They acknowledged that economic reforms often required painful restructuring measures.

There remained some disputes too. One of those areas was a proposal to sell \$ 2 billion in gold reserves held by the International Monetary Fund to finance debt relief for some of the world's poorest

nations, many of them in Africa.

Germany steadfastly objected to this proposal, arguing that the IMF's gold reserves should not be tapped for anything short of a major financial crisis. Concern was also expressed over efforts by the US Congress to punish non-American companies that trade with such countries as Cuba, Iran and Libya. Britain hoped that President Clinton would exercise waiver provisions in the new US law to mitigate its impact.

USA and Japan left the summit at odds over everything from computer crimps to Japan's future budget policy. Although neither side was willing to push any of the disputes to the brink of a damaging trade war, still both sides talked tough and vowed not to back down.

The non-governmental organisations expressed disappointment after the failure of G-7 to make a breakthrough in providing real debt relief to the poorest countries. The NGOs feel that rather than helping alleviate poverty, the G-7 approach will increase the debt burden of the poor.

G-7, joined by Russia for the political leg of the summit, renewed the demand that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic leave power—with a threat of fresh sanctions if he failed to comply. Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, was also urged to press ahead with the Middle East peace process on terms which were agreed earlier.

Breaking with tradition, G-7 also held a special session with the heads of the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation.

## INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

### Bomb blast at US base in Saudi Arabia

ON June 26, 1996, a powerful truck bomb ripped through a US air force housing complex in the eastern Saudi Arabian city of Dhahran, killing atleast 23



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## INTERNATIONAL

Americans and injuring more than 300. Muslim militants were thought to be behind the blast. The presence of the US forces has angered Muslim militants who oppose any western presence in Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest shrines.

The blast on June 26 came seven months after a car bomb exploded outside US-run military building in Riyadh, killing five Americans and two Indians. In April, four Saudis had confessed to be behind these blasts and were beheaded on May 31.

The US military presence in Saudi Arabia was introduced quietly in the 1970s and 1980s but came out into the open with the Gulf War. The consensus among Western experts is that the kingdom is under no immediate threat, but the situation bears watching. The shadowy extremists have shown that they are potent enough to shatter the monarchy's former reputation as an oasis of stability in the turbulent Middle East.

Another point to be noted is that the blasts have taken place at a time when the aging and ailing king Fahd, who has been the monarch for last 14 years, is believed to be in the process of ceding power to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah. Compared to Fahd, who forged strong ties to the West, Abdullah is a pious traditionalist, less enamoured of the country's close military and political connections with the US and more inclined towards the Arab world.

## BANGLADESH

ON June 23, 1996, Sheikh Hasina Wajed became the second woman Prime Minister of Bangladesh after her Awami League Party emerged as the single largest party in the June 12 general elections.

Wajed, 49, is the daughter of founder of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was toppled in a bloody coup in 1975. Awami League, which led the war of independence in 1971, is now back in power

after 21 years.

Wajed succeeds Bangladesh's first woman Prime Minister, Begum Khalida Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), who had resigned three months ago, five years after she led her assassinated husband's party to a similar victory in 1991.

The *Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad* (Parliament) has 300 directly elected seats while 30 seats are reserved for women. Awami League has won 146 seats. The lone independent member to win elections has joined Awami League to take its strength to 147. Jatiya Party, headed by the jailed former President, General H.M. Ershad, got 31 seats and is giving unconditional support to Awami League. BNP could manage only 116 seats.

The elections were a big set-back for the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami. It could secure only two seats, as against 18 won in 1991.

The elections were held under a caretaker government and were declared free and fair by over 250 foreign observers from 14 countries. The turnover was overwhelming. The turn-out of women voters was particularly high. In all 73 per cent voters turned up to select their representatives from among 2574 candidates.

Bangladesh has had a particularly volatile experience with democracy. Formed in 1971 on the ruins of what was then East Pakistan, it began life amidst high democratic expectations. Four years later, these turned to disappointment with its founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, falling victim, along with some 15 members of his family, to an army coup. Thereafter, the country was prey to one coup after another, for altogether some 16 years out of the 25 that the nation has existed, as the generals stepped in only to leave a bigger mess behind.

In 1991, Bangladesh began the long, slow, tumultuous climb back to democracy which was interrupted again and again and which is still not over. In that

year, it had the first free elections since the violent circumstances of its birth. It was held under the country's first caretaker government which took over from Gen Ershad's nine-year-old army dictatorship which fell after relentless agitation.

The 1991 election was won by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by Mrs Khaleda Zia, the widow of the slain army chief-cum-president, Gen Ziaur Rahman. However, it lost its shine when charges of corruption against its leaders began to surface. The lid finally blew off in mid-1994 when it allegedly rigged the Maqura by-election. BNP found itself ranged against a joint opposition front, comprising of the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami, which together resigned from the Parliament in protest.

Subsequent two years saw Bangladesh in a state of virtual non-governance. The combined opposition launched a series of strikes, blockades, demonstrations and other forms of near-continuous protest.

Begum Zia called for an election in February 1996. However, it was boycotted by the opposition. The protests continued and eventually she agreed to step down to pave way for a caretaker government under which the present polls were held.

## US-CHINA

### Trade war avoided once again

AFTER a month of hectic negotiations, the United States on June 17, 1996, announced its decision of not imposing its much publicized sanctions against China. The trade war between the US and China entered a crucial phase on May 16, 1996, when the United States released its list of sanctions targeting Chinese textile and electronic industry. And, in an immediate retaliation, China announced punitive tariff on a range of imported goods from America. Last year an identical situation, had emerged, but the two could find

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

a last minute compromise. This year the situation was dramatically re-enacted.

Various clauses of the present agreement were implicit in the last year's agreement also, but China never honoured the same. In the present agreement specific details have been added to make it feasible. Under the new agreement, China will set up monitoring machinery and allow the US industrialists, affected by copyright piracy, greater access to areas of manufacturing. China, by getting 15 out of 30 pirated CD establishments closed, provided an index of its good intentions.

### TURKEY

#### Pro-Islamic Welfare Party comes to power

FOLLOWING the collapse of the conservative coalition government, headed by Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, Welfare Party, under the leadership of Necmettin Erbakan, has formed the government in partnership with the True Path Party of former Prime Minister, Ms Tansu Ciller.

Under the coalition agreement Erbakan has agreed that Turkey will remain a secular democratic republic. The agreement also provides for handing over the premiership to Ms Ciller, now foreign minister and deputy PM, at the end of two years.

In the elections, held in December 1995, the Welfare Party had emerged the largest with 158 seats in the 550-member National assembly. However, it could not form the government as all other political parties, which espoused secularism, refused to form a coalition with it. This led to the formation of a coalition between the Motherland Party and True Path Party. The agreement was that Mr Yilmaz will be the Prime Minister for two years to be followed by Ms Ciller.

The coalition split when Prime Minister Yilmaz did not stop his party mem-

bers from voting for the motion, moved by the Welfare Party, to investigate corruption charges against Ms Ciller during her term as Prime Minister before the December elections.

Now Ms Ciller has brokered a deal with the Welfare Party to save herself from the corruption charges probe. This coalition has helped break the taboo against Welfare Party's acceptance to lead the government in the secular Turkey—the only Muslim State which has declared itself completely secular.

Welfare Party's philosophy emphasises developing closer relations with Islamic countries and advancing Islamic values. It is to be seen how far it will compromise on it.

### AFGHANISTAN

#### Hekmatyar sworn-in PM amidst rocket attacks

ON June 27, 1996, the former government enemy, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, was sworn-in as Afghanistan's new Prime Minister amid rebel rocket fire that killed more than 40 people.

Hekmatyar's alliance with Rabbani ended four years of feuding that destroyed much of the Afghan capital and killed more than 25,000 people.

Many had hoped that Mr Hekmatyar's arrival in Kabul would symbolise renewed peace efforts. However, this was not to be as the Taliban

#### Who benefits from WHO?

According to a report, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) massive bureaucracy swallows a major share of the \$7.5 billion budget leaving just 26 per cent for a to fight global diseases. At least half of the remaining budgets are wasted on non-essential issues such as administration, staff and other rather than concerns about an immunisation.

A poor estimate of the WHO's massive bureaucracy shows appropriations of seven and nine cents per child which is much less than what is spent in other countries and the United States.

Calling for drastic action, economists Robert Pollson and Richard Pollson, authors of the report, say that the WHO's massive bureaucracy should have been reduced to a fraction of its current size.

The report also estimates that the WHO's massive bureaucracy costs \$1.5 billion per year, which is more than a similar sum for the United Nations.

The report also says that the WHO's massive bureaucracy is the cause of the WHO's failure to control the spread of the AIDS virus.

Unfortunately, the WHO's massive bureaucracy is the cause of the WHO's failure to control the spread of the AIDS virus.

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### INTERNATIONAL

militia oppose both Mr Hekmatyar and President Rabbani. They demand their ouster and want that they be tried as war criminals.

Hekmatyar's spokesman said that the new Prime Minister is offering an olive branch to the Taliban and a promise of elections within the next six months to one year. "If the Taliban are really popular then let them contest elections and until then there should be no fighting", he said.

### EUROPEAN UNION

#### Beef War Ends

THE beef-war between Britain and its European partners ended on June 21, 1996, when an agreement to this effect was reached at Florence summit. The summit

was convened under the Chairmanship of Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi. Mr Prodi, who made debut as summit host and chairman, won praise from EU colleagues for his skilful tackling of the issue. While British officials described the agreement as 'reasonable', European officials described it as 'face saving'.

The agreement envisages measures that would lead to a long-term eradication of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) from British cattle as well as a gradual lifting of the ban on British beef exports. In return, Britain signalled an end to its campaign of non-cooperation.

John Major had succeeded in crippling the EU by vetoing all its proposals that required unanimity amongst members.

Under the agreement, Britain will slaughter about 120,000 cattle which are

most likely to contract the dreaded BSE disease. The ban will be lifted in five phases and the Government hopes that by autumn 1996 the ban would become almost negligible. Though the crisis has apparently been resolved it is likely to damage Mr Major politically. The British PM has been accused of humiliating climb down from earlier position. The domestic criticism will focus on 70,000 extra cattle that the Government has agreed to slaughter under pressure from European Commission, Britain had maintained that its plan to kill around 80,000 cattle was all that was necessary to control BSE. In turn Britain has persuaded Europe to part with another 160 million pounds in compensation, raising to over 800 million pounds the total amount of European money that will flow in to compensate British cattle farmers.

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# SPORTS

## CHESS

### National 'A' Chess Championship

T.N. Parameswaran of Air India, Madras, repeated his title triumph in the 33rd National 'A' Chess Championship played at Kasargod.

## CRICKET

### India-England Test Series

ENGLAND won the first Test against India by eight wickets, played at Birmingham, thus taking a 1-0 lead in three-match series. The match witnessed a pathetic show by Indian batsmen. The second test, played at Lords ended in a draw. The highlight was a century on debut by Saurav Ganguly, in the first innings.

10 Indians who have scored centuries in their debut Test are:

1. Lala Amarnath (118) v England at Bombay, 1933. 2. Deepak Shodhan (110) v Pakistan at Bombay, 1952. 3. A.G. Kirpal

Singh (100) v New Zealand at Hyderabad, 1955. 4. Abbas Ali Baig (105) v England at Manchester, 1959. 5. Hanumant Singh (105) v England at New Delhi, 1963. 6. G.R. Viswanath (137) v Australia at Kanpur, 1969. 7. Surinder Amarnath (124) v New Zealand at Auckland, 1976. 8. Mohd Azharuddin (110) v England at Calcutta, 1984. 9. Praveen Amre (103) v South Africa at Durban, 1992. 10. Saurav Ganguly (131) v England at Lords, 1996.

## FOOTBALL

### European Soccer Championship

GERMANY won the European Soccer Championship for the third time when they beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in the final played at London.

### 2002 World Cup

JAPAN and South Korea will share the 2002 World Cup finals but FIFA said that

the co-hosting would be a one-time affair. North Korea would not be allowed to host any event, dashing hopes to promote North-South harmony.

## TENNIS

### French Open

GERMANY'S defending champion Steffi Graf won the French Open women singles title for a fifth time. She beat Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain the longest and most thrilling final in tournament's history

Sixth seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov became the first Russian to win a Grand Slam singles crown at the French Open when he beat Germany's Michael Stich in the men's final. The only other Russian player to reach a Grand Slam tournament final was Alex Metreveli (now of Georgia) who was beaten by Jan Kodes in the 1973 Wimbledon final.

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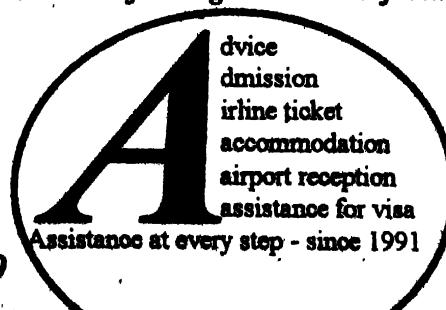
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# The Examiner's Guess Questions

**Q.** When was the World Environment Day observed?

**A.** June 5, 1996

**Q.** Which day was observed as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking?

**A.** June 26.

**Q.** Who is the first Indian to air drop at the North Pole?

**A.** Squadron leader Sanjay Thapar became the first Indian air drop at the North Pole.

**Q.** What were the nine original games of the 1896 Olympics?

**A.** The nine original disciplines were: athletics, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling.

**Q.** Who is the only man to have won two gold medals in the 100m event in Olympics?

**A.** Carl Lewis, declared the winner of the 100m in the 1988 Seoul Olympics after a positive drug test on Ben Johnson, is the only man to have won two gold medals in the 100m event.

**Q.** What is Fischerandom?

**A.** US chess genius Bobby Fischer has introduced a new version of the game, called Fischerandom. It is based on the random alignment of pieces on the back row of the chessboard, offering 960 possible starting variations. Launching Fischerandom in Argentina, Fischer said that traditional chess had been dulled by endless analysis of limited starting possibilities. He also alleged that fraud had been introduced as certain matches were pre-arranged. The new chess would be much more interesting.

**Q.** What is telecommuting?

**A.** Telecommuting is a management concept where employees work from home through computers, which saves commuting time and expenses and the need for having offices in high-rent areas.

**Q.** Who is known as the "Father of the Internet"?

**A.** Glen Ricart, who introduced the world to Internet in 1972, is known as "Father of the Internet". He designed the e-mail in early 70s but redesigned it in 1974 so that it could send unlimited number of messages.

**Q.** Name the Indian States whose total direct tax collection exceeds Rs 1000 crore.

**A.** Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

**Q.** Where is the highest Stupa in the world situated?

**A.** The highest Stupa in the world is situated near Abhishek Pushkarni in Vaishali district of Bihar.

**Q.** Name the first fast track project which will supply power in Andhra Pradesh?

**A.** The 235 MW Jegurupadu power project of the GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh is the first fast track project which has started supplying power to the State.

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# Round-up of National Affairs

## Review of the last 12 months

The last 12 months were marked by dramatic changes on the national scene. The 11th Lok Sabha elections saw the Congress touching a historic low but no party was able to get a majority to form the government. The BJP's attempt to form a government collapsed after 13 days, leading to the installation of the H.D. Deve Gowda government, a coalition group of diverse parties with support from the Congress. It became evident that regional parties had gained, perhaps changing the face of Indian politics for all times. Many States also witnessed change in governments.

This period will perhaps be remembered for scandals, which broke with alarming frequency. Even before the hawala scandal had eased from public memory than the housing scam hit the headlines, followed by the JMM bribery case and the urea scandal. In each, the politician's disregard for honesty and decorum became more than evident.

The scandals brought into focus the role of the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, in cases involving public corruption. A debate about judicial activism was sparked off, as the Court directed the CBI to report to it so that there were no further delays in the investigations. The Court also assumed monitoring of the investigations in the Chandrasekhar case, as these had been dragged too long by the CBI.

In spite of attempts by militants, elections in Kashmir passed off peacefully, raising hopes that peace may at last return to the troubled valley. But ethnic violence spread in Assam and there were rumblings in Tripura as well.

On the economic front, the rupee crashed to a historic low, while the response of stock markets responded political changes in the country was mixed. Industry faced a severe liquidity crunch and the RBI stepped in to reduce the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR). Inflation was kept under check and touched its lowest levels but many felt that the trend could not be sustained for too long. The country was flooded with cellular phones, pagers and expensive cars, a result of the new economic policies pursued by the Rao government.

India's foreign policy and trade initiatives remained at a low ebb because of the impending elections. Many decisions were kept in abeyance as the country was virtually without an active government for an extended period. But the country had its share of excitement earlier in the Cricket World Cup, which saw some of the best cricket action in the sub-continent.

## 11TH LOK SABHA

**Coalition government takes charge:** The 11th Lok Sabha elections delivered the verdict of a hung Parliament, in which no party had the absolute majority to form a government. The BJP emerged as the single largest party but with 160 seats was still far behind the halfway mark of 269 seats required for a majority. But the party was hopeful of getting the support of regional groups and staked its claim to form a government. The support did not materialise. After a two-day debate in Par-

liament, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee decided to forego the vote of confidence which he was sure to lose and resigned after just 13 days in office.

The Congress with 136 seats was the second largest party, but did not want to form a government. It chose, instead, to support a government led by the United Front. The newly elected leader of the Front, H.D. Deve Gowda, formed the next government and won a vote of confidence which he was required to do by June 12, 1996. A 21-member cabinet of ministers was sworn in. India thus got its first Prime

Minister who could not speak Hindi, showing the perceptible power shift in national politics.

The new government marked the beginning of a new era of coalition politics in India. The government had been formed by a small group with the help of diverse groups including the Communists and the Congress. Many were sceptical whether the government could survive its full term and others found that the government "is backtracking on many promises, including taking a hard stand on corruption and not including hawala tainted leaders in the ministry. The Congress support ensured that the new government would have to follow the policies of the Congress and the common minimum programme released by the United Front reflected those constraints.

The 10th Lok Sabha ended its last session on February 12, 1996 with a walk-out by the Opposition following the fizzling-out of a motion on the hawala scandal.

## RAJYA SABHA

**Biennial Elections:** The biennial elections to the permanent body of the Union Legislature were held for the 60 seats, excluding the 11 seats in Uttar Pradesh for which elections could not be held for want of Assembly.

At the first instance 19 candidates were declared elected unopposed. Congress registered a clean sweep in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam and bagged 10 seats from other five States. After the contest of February 19, 1996, the Congress won 21 seats, the BJP 10, the Janata Dal 8, the CPI-M and the AIADMK 5 each, Telegu Desam (Naidu) 4, Shiv Sena 2, and CPI, AGP, Forward Bloc, TDP (NTR) and Independents got one each. The prominent leaders elected were former Karnataka Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde, Union Ministers S.B. Chavan and Mr N.K.P. Salve.

## SCANDALS

### A gallery of rogues

**S**CANDALS broke with alarming frequency. The Rao government, perhaps, presided over the maximum number of scandals in the history of independent India. The sums involved were huge but the scandals were just one aspect of the plague of corruption that has come to plague the country. Some of the scandals uncovered were:

Scandal	Year	Approx Amount
Securities scam	1992	Rs 5,000 crore
Sugar scam	1994	Rs 650 crore
Fodder scam		
(Bihar)	1995	Rs 600 crore
Housing scam	1995	Rs 17.4 crore
Hawala scandal	1995	Rs 65 crore
JMM bribery case	1995	Rs 3 crore
Urea scandal	1996	Rs 133 crore

**Hawala Scandal:** The country's largest case of political corruption was triggered in 1990. The arrest of two Kashmiri militants revealed that money had been paid to them through a hawala network. The trail led to S.K. Jain and his brothers. A surprise CBI raid on their farmhouse in Delhi in 1991 unearthed a set of diaries which recorded their hawala transactions. They mentioned 115 people, including 40 politicians and 18 bureaucrats as recipients of huge amounts, a total of Rs 65 crore. Acting on a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court charging the CBI of deliberately delaying investigations, the Court started applying pressure on the CBI to move faster. In March 1994, 18 bureaucrats were chargesheeted. Further prodding from the Court resulted in action being taken against the politicians. On January 16, 1996, the CBI charged Arif Mohammad Khan, Arjun Singh, Balram Jakhar, Devi Lal, Kalpnath Rai, L.K. Advani, Madhav Rao Scindia, V.C. Shukla and Yashwant Sinha, who were accused of having received sums ranging from Rs 10.5 lakhs to Rs 749.6 lakhs. On February 22, 14 more persons were chargesheeted, including Jaffar

Sharief, N.D. Tiwari, Harmohan Dhawan, Natwar Singh and Sharad Yadav. The Supreme Court freed the CBI from the PM's control on March 1, 1996 and assumed direct monitoring.

**Bihar Fodder Scam:** In Bihar, there was scandal of another kind. The State's Accountant General had reported that abnormal withdrawals of funds had taken place in the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD). Records showed that a hen at an AHD farm ate 40 kg of feed every day and the total amount of feed consumed in one month by the 2,000 hens was actually enough to feed them for 40 years! Crores had been spent on cattle that never existed and payments made for supplies that were never delivered. The funds were obviously being siphoned off by officials. Raids in the Ranchi office yielded Rs 80 lakhs in cash and jewellery worth Rs 6 lakhs, while an official had a factory to produce letterheads of fictitious firms dealing in cattle feed. The sum looted by the officials in this fashion for the past five years was Rs 600 crore. The Bihar government set up a one-man commission of enquiry and lodged FIRs against 458 persons, including 160 government employees.

**Housing scam:** For years, government houses have been allotted to those who paid bribes to officials. But nothing was done, even after the CAG drew attention to the scandal. It was left to the Supreme Court to take note of the allegations that some 8,700 out-of-turn allottees had paid bribes ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The ministry rules allow for 20 per cent of housing allotments to be made on a discretionary basis, but under the former Ministers Sheila Kaul and P.K. Thungon, they were as high as 50 per cent and in some cases the percentage was more than 85. The former personal assistants of Kaul and Thungon were arrested while 10 junior officers were suspended. Kaul had also allotted 43 shops and stalls in prime areas in Delhi to her friends and relatives. Kaul, who was appointed as Governor of Himachal Pradesh, stuck to her position even as the Supreme Court indicated that

she step down. It was only after the President said that she should resign to safeguard and uphold constitutional propriety, that Kaul made her graceless exit on April 21, 1996 and obtained anticipatory bail.

**JMM Bribery Scandal:** The scandal surfaced into prominence with the filing of a Public Interest petition by the Rashtriya Mukti Morcha, alleging that four MPs of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Suraj Mandal, Shailendra Mahto, Shibu Soren and Simon Marandi, had received huge amounts of money in 1993 to vote against the no-confidence motion faced by the Rao government. The petition stated that hawala operator S.K. Jain had admitted paying Rs 3 crore to Chandraswami at the behest of Rao to engineer defections and that the CBI was trying to cover up Rao's role. Mahto announced on February 26, 1996 that he, along with three other JMM MPs, had received Rs 40 lakh each in July, 1993. The CBI registered FIRs against the four members of the Lok Sabha under the Prevention of Corruption Act but on June 11, 1996, the Supreme Court upheld the Delhi High Court order asking the CBI to file a fresh FIR. The next day a fresh FIR was filed by the CBI which named former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and his cabinet colleagues V.C. Shukla, Satish Sharma, Ajit Singh, R.K. Dhawan and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal. The FIR also named industrialist Lalit Suri and JMM MP Suraj Mandal.

**Urea Scandal:** The latest scandal to tumble out of the government's cupboard relates to the advance payment of Rs 133 crore to a little known Turkish firm, Karsan Ltd, for import of urea which was never delivered. Officials of the public sector National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), including its managing director C.K. Ramakrishnan, were suspended. The finger of suspicion fell on Narasimha Rao's son Prabhakar Rao, his relative Sanjeeva Rao and former fertiliser minister Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav's son Prakash Chandra. The fraudulent deal showed how the public sector is misused by politicians to obtain kickbacks. Prakash Chandra and Sambasiva Rao, the



## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

agent of Karsan Ltd, were arrested and Prabhakar Rao was summoned for questioning. The State Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India were also found to have overlooked their duties and released the foreign exchange without taking precautions.

**Mumbai Port Trust Scandal** The CBI filed a FIR against the Mumbai Port Trust (MPT) Chairman and Deputy Chairman for dishonestly flouting government instructions and board guidelines in the matter of allotting prime commercial space to its counsel, Kiran Choudhary, at a fraction of the cost. Investigations revealed that in 1993 the rooms in the office complex of the MPT had been leased to Choudhary the daughter-in-law of Bansilal, at the throwaway price of Rs 57.20 per square metre when the market rate exceeded Rs 1000 per square metre. In turn, Choudhary sub leased the accommodation to a private company, helping her to reap sizeable profits. CBI superintendent YP Singh who was handling the case, was transferred.

### STATES

#### Change of government in many States

**Karunanidhi becomes CM in Tamil Nadu** On May 13, 1996, M. Karunanidhi was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the fourth time. He first became the Chief Minister in 1969. The rout of AIADMK in the elections was attributed to various reasons ranging from Jayalalitha's growing indifference to public sentiments, and to her aligning with the Congress.

**Bansilal takes over in Haryana:** On May 10, 1996, the Governor of Haryana invited Bansilal, leader of the Haryana Vikas Party (HVP), to form a Government. The HVP emerged as the single largest party. The Congress, which had 55 seats in the dissolved House, won only 9 seats this time. Bansilal's claim was strengthened by the support from three independents

#### India largest South Asian debtor

India's foreign debt touched a record \$ 88.39 billion mark at the end of 1994 but it is still within "manageable limits" and there was no cause of concern, according to the World Bank. The annual World Bank tables released by it say that the situation improved in 1995 as the debt grew less rapidly than in previous years.

India is placed among "moderately indebted low-income countries", whose present value of debt service to exports of goods and services is between 18% and 22%. The document also notes that India has attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) flows since economic liberalisation in 1991. It secured \$ 1.5 billion in FDI in 1995 and emerged as the "principal host" in South Asia. The total FDI inflows for the region last year was \$ 2 billion and India gets the maximum share.

The report says that the pace of growth in external debt of South Asian countries slowed down to 4% in 1995, less than half of the 9% increase in 1994. The region's total debt outstanding was \$ 188 billion at the end of 1995. India is the largest borrower with 60% of this figure.

India is the largest recipient of loans from the International Development Agency (IDA) accounting for 30% of outstanding IDA credits. Since 1990, India has also ranked among the top recipients of loans from the World Bank.

and the BJP, which won 10 seats

Bansilal was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Haryana for the fourth time. Earlier he had been the Chief Minister in 1968, 1972 and 1986. Immediately after assuming office, Bansilal ordered total prohibition in the State from July 1, 1996, as per its electoral promise.

**Mohanta takes over in Assam** In Guwahati, Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mohanta of Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) was sworn in on May 15, 1996. It is for the second time that Mohanta became Chief Minister of Assam. When he first became the Chief Minister in 1985, he created a record of becoming the youngest person to become CM. But following a split in the party, the AGP did badly in the 1991 elections.

**Return of the Left in Kerala** On May 20, 1996, the CPM-led Left Democratic Front headed by E.K. Nayanar was sworn in Kerala. In the recent elections, the LDF led by CPM registered a decisive win over the Congress-led United Democratic Front. It is for the third time that Nayanar has been appointed the Chief Minister.

**DMK-led coalition in Pondicherry:** The DMK-led coalition government headed by R.V. Janakraman was sworn in on May 27, 1996. Having won nine seats in the elec-

tions, the Congress emerged as the single largest party in the 30-member House. But it did not stake its claim to form the government. Later the Lieutenant Governor invited DMK and its allies to form government. The DMK and its allies Tamil Maanila Congress and the CPI together got 15 seats. The present Ministry is the 13th in the Union Territory and DMK has got the distinction of leading all the four coalition governments in the UT.

**Basu gets fifth term in West Bengal** On May 20, 1996, the Marxist leader Jyoti Basu was sworn in Chief Minister of West Bengal for a record fifth time in a row. He first became the Chief Minister in 1977 after voting Sidhartha Shankar Ray Government out of power. Basu began his active political career in 1946. After independence, he wrested the Baranagore seat in 1952 and retained it till 1972 when he suffered the only defeat of his career. Thereafter he moved to Satgachia constituency which he retains.

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Elections promise return of normalcy: Uncertainty whether militants would allow elections to be held in Kashmir ended with the holding of successful

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and largely violence-free elections for the Lok Sabha seats in the State.

The election results showed that Congress had swept the polls and won the seats from Ladakh, Jammu, Baramulla and Srinagar. The results debunked the theory of forced elections. Both Indian and foreign media had reported that elections were held with threats by the army. But the Congress victory showed that the people had voted with their minds and not with fear. It was a vote for return of normalcy. A positive indication was that terrorism seemed to have been controlled in the valley, in spite of Pakistan's known involvement.

### ASSAM

**Ethnic violence rises again:** The installation of Prafulla Kumar Mohanta's ministry coincided with a spurt of violence in Assam. Ethnic clashes in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon claimed 75 lives within a week, including those of superintendent of police R.K. Singh, former minister Nagen Neog and prominent newspaper editor Parag Das. Nearly two lakh people were rendered homeless following torching of 65 villages in the Kokrajhar district. Army and paramilitary forces were deployed in the State with shoot at sight orders.

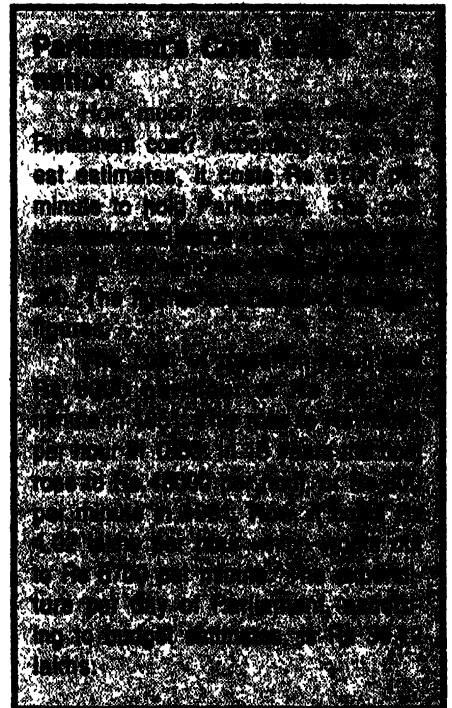
Several factors have played a role in

the ethnic violence against the Santhal tribals. Increasing population of non-Bodo tribals, Muslims and other migrants has led to shrinking of the land mass earlier available to the Bodo tribals. There is increasing resentment among the dominant tribal community leading to attacks by the Bodo militants on non-Bodo settlers. There is also the issue of including the villages along the 10 km border with Bhutan in the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC) which has not been sorted out. The All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) disowned the 1993 Bodo accord over this issue and reverted to the demand for a separate State.

The Bodos are also outnumbered by the Adivasis who constitute 30 per cent of the population and work as labourers in the tea gardens. The Bodos want them out too. There may also be political factors, as Santhalis are pro-Congress and had even put up their own candidate in the elections.

### TRIPURA

**Insurgents threaten to deport outsiders:** After serving notices on January 1, 1996 the outlawed All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) has been building up pressure to deport the foreigners from Tripura. Disregarding the Indira-Mujib Pact, they asked people, who came to the State after 1949



but were not enlisted in the voter list of 1951, to leave the State by June 30. The ATTF announced to launch 'Operation Raukhaly' (operation deportation) to push back foreigners from July 1, besides calling a 10-day State-wide bandh. By comparing the present demographic complexion with what it was on October 15, 1949, when Tripura merged with Indian Union, the militants stress that during 47 years, the tribal population in Tripura has declined from 90 per cent to 31 per cent, while the population of Tripura has increased six times. The Left Front government in Tripura ruled out deportation of any person who came into the State before March 23, 1971.

Chief Minister and tribal leader Dasaratha Deb said that according to the Indira-Mujib pact, it was impossible to push back those people who came here before the stipulated date. To dispel apprehensions amongst militants, government has launched various schemes to bring them in the mainstream. It signed a bi-partite agreement with the All Tripura Tribal Force in 1993.

### India Heading towards AIDS Epidemic

A British university study has warned of an AIDS disaster looming over India. The country has the largest number of infected cases and the highest figures of new HIV cases each year.

Within a decade of its occurrence in India, AIDS is almost set to assume epidemic proportions. Since 1986 when the first AIDS case was detected in India, AIDS had been reported in almost all the States of India and by early 1994 the number of HIV infections had crossed two million. The north-eastern States of Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram that account for 3 per cent of the population have 10 to 15 per cent of HIV cases. In view of an estimate that in India there are about 225 million sexually active men, Prof Robert A. Platt, Professor of Epidemiology at London, refers India as a place fast becoming the global epicentre of the global plague. The onus falls on the political will and the medical leadership in the country as to best negotiate with their resources to avert the onslaught of the epidemic menace of AIDS.

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH

**Supreme Court to the rescue of Chakma refugees:** Following a public interest litigation filed by the National Human Rights Commission, the Supreme Court on January 10, 1996 directed the Arunachal Pradesh government to ensure that the life and liberty of Chakma refugees is protected. The Chakmas, who were displaced three decades ago by the Kaptai Hydel Power Project in Bangladesh, got settled in Assam, Tripura and Arunachal. But the settlement of the Chakma and Hajong refugees causes heartburn among the local people. A white paper released by the Arunachal Pradesh government on March 15, 1996 says that the customary laws of the indigenous people have been violated and traditional rights encroached upon by allowing the settlement of the refugees. It also says that allegations of human rights violations by the Chakmas are exaggerated and that the local people feel that they would be reduced to a minority.

## MAHARASHTRA

**Srikrishna Commission Reinstated:** After four months of dissolving it, Maharashtra Government on May 28, 1996 announced the reinstatement of the Srikrishna Commission. The Commission was set up under the chairmanship of Justice B.N. Srikrishna in 1993 to probe into the riots that engulfed Mumbai in December 1992 and January 1993. The Commission was initially set up for six months but repeatedly got extensions. Finally on January 23, 1996 the Maharashtra Government announced its decision to dissolve it. The government's decision was based on the perception that the continuation of the Commission may lead to some sort of communal tensions, besides its being taxing the exchequer heavily. The dissolution of the Commission evoked resentment from National Minorities Commission and various political parties. A Public Interest Petition challenging government's order

was also filed in the Mumbai High Court.

**Enron Project Cleared:** The Maharashtra government cleared the revised Enron project on January 8, 1996, thus ending a long drawn out controversy. The cost of the 2450 MW project has been reduced from Rs 9,060 crore to Rs 6,424 crore. The tariff has been reduced from Rs 2.40 to Rs 1.86 per unit, which will result in savings of Rs 25,000 crore, according to calculations of the government.

Chief Minister Manohar Joshi absolved the Sharad Pawar government of receiving kickbacks and ruled out a probe. The State government, however, asked Enron chief executive Rebecca Mark to list the recipients of the Rs 60 crore that the company has paid allegedly to "educate Indians".

## CAUVERY WATER DISPUTE

**T**HE long standing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on sharing of waters from the Cauvery river erupted once again. Karnataka refused to release 11 tmc ft of water as ordered by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal on December 19 essentially required for paddy crops in Tamil Nadu, which then peti-

tioned the Supreme Court. The Court directed the Prime Minister to resolve the issue and convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the two States. The two-day initiative on new year eve yielded nothing. The Prime Minister asked Karnataka to release six tmc ft of water. He also announced the constitution of an experts' group headed by Vice Chancellor of JNU and former member of the Planning Commission, Dr Y.K. Alagh, to assess the status of the crops in the two States.

## SECURITY

**Arms-Drop in Purulia:** In an alarming breach of the nation's security, an unidentified aircraft roared over the villages of Deradi, Ganodi and Ghatanda in West Bengal's Purulia district and dropped huge crates of firearms, rocket launchers and grenades on December 19. Among the arms recovered were AK-47 rifles, pistols, rocket launchers and anti-tank grenades.

A few days later, on December 22, a Pakistan-bound Russian-made AN-26 aircraft was intercepted by the Indian Air Force and was made to force land at Bombay. The crew confessed that the

## Debate on Multinationals

On March 19, 1996, Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Tarun Das threw a bombshell and restarted the debate on Multinational Corporations (MNCs). He said that recent MNC entrants in India were for 'one night stands', parking off obsolete technology and building access to the Indian market through minimum production. Their objective was to generate profits quickly. Indian partners were required to get approvals but once these were obtained, they would be muscled out. Indian managers were not employed and foreign managers and CEOs were brought in.

There was predictable outrage among the MNCs, as also among government officials. The Congress debated whether *swadeshi* should be incorporated in the party's manifesto. As points and counterpoints were made, there was no doubt that the debate had been opened and it was unlikely to die down.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) took horns over the issue. FICCI called for a *swadeshi* role of MNCs in the infrastructure sector, a *swadeshi* role in export sectors and a *swadeshi* role in consumer goods sector. ASSOCHAM said it was prepared to allow foreign investment in the consumer goods sector without the condition of *swadeshi* balancing. Both chambers, however, agreed on the need for a *swadeshi* role in infrastructure and export sectors.



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crore till October 1995 which showed a marginal increase. The share of cereals and rice increased.

The Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) began work in more districts to provide a linkage between farmers and industry. As many as 183 Krishi Vigyan Kendras were established and another 78 KVKs sanctioned to take technology to the farmers.

### DEMOGRAPHY

**Sharp rise in Muslim population:** The Muslim population has recorded a faster growth rate than all other major religions, registering a 32.76 per cent rise during 1981-1991. According to the report published by the Census Commissioner of India, 24 million people have been added to the Muslim population during the period, recording a growth rate 10 per cent more than that of the Hindu population. In 26 of the 30 States and Union Territories, the Muslim population was growing faster than any other religion.

The Muslim population went up from 10.88 per cent of the national population in 1981 to 11.67 per cent in 1991. The Hindu population declined from 83.09 to 82.41 per cent during the same period.

### EDUCATION

**Open Universities come of age:** Open and distance education has come of age

in India with its first open university, the Indira Gandhi Open University (IGNOU), completing ten years in November 1995. IGNOU today is a focal point of distance learning and is among the top ten such institutions in the world.

IGNOU was opened in 1985 to provide opportunities of higher learning to the educationally disadvantaged groups like working people, housewives and those living in far flung places, who could not avail this opportunity in the early life.

Since 1985 four other open Universities have opened. These are: Dr B.R. Ambedkar University in Hyderabad, Yashwant Rao Chavan University in Nasik, Nalanda University in Patna and Kota University in Kota (Rajasthan).

### ENVIRONMENT

**Land degradation continues in India:** Nearly half of the total geographical area of 329 million has degraded in India, while more of it is being degraded every year, according to the 13th report of the Parliament Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment and Forests. The Committee did not agree with the view of the Ministry of Environment and Forests that the target of extending the forest cover of 33% of the area could not be met due to the inadequate allocation of funds.

The Committee has emphasised compensatory afforestation to take place at a faster pace. It said that during the eighth

plan, afforestation efforts suffered.

### STATUS OF WOMEN

**Eventful year for women:** The year 1995 turned out to be an eventful year for women. The year witnessed one of the largest ever international meets at the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing where over 30,000 participants brought women's issues at the centre stage of development.

The Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) was launched to integrate various sectoral programmes for women's welfare.

A major initiative has been taken with the drafting of the national policy on women. The draft calls for elimination of all forms of violence against women and time-bound plans.

The National Women's Conference was reconstituted with Mrs Mohini Giri being appointed as its chairperson.

In child welfare, a major step was taken to expand the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS). Adolescent girls were also brought under the ICDS by providing them health and nutritional care, functional literacy and vocational training.

A National Creche Fund was set up during the year with a corpus of Rs 20 crore to provide assistance to voluntary organisations for opening new creches.

The Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) enabled 1.25 crore poor rural women to open their accounts.

### PLANNING

**Implementation of Child Labour Scheme Tardy:** According to a report by the Centre for Concern for Child Labour, the ambitious Rs 850 crore programme to eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations is not progressing well. The programme was launched in September 1995, a year after the Prime Minister announced the government's commitment to eliminate child labour in his Independence day address.

Against a modest target of pulling out

#### Ajmer is costliest city

AJMER has become the costliest city in the country, where a rupee is worth only 34.38 paise, while Amritsar is the cheapest, where a rupee is worth 42.89 paise.

Among the metropolitan cities, Madras is the costliest, with the rupee value 34.86 paise. People in Delhi and Calcutta are better off at 35.88 paise to a rupee, while in Bangalore it is 36.22 paise and in Mumbai 38.61 paise.

In the southern region, Coimbatore is the costliest city with the rupee at 34.43 paise. Thiruvananthapuram is better off at 40.65 paise. In the north, Chandigarh has the rupee value 35.74 paise.

On an all India basis, the rupee is valued at 35.46 paise. The rupee value was calculated on the basis of consumer price index for urban non-manual employees with base 1984-85.

4 lakh children a year, only 70,000 children have been covered so far. At this rate, the annual target can only be reached by the year 2000.

The major hazardous occupations include carpet weaving, cement manufacturing, building construction, matchbox and *beedi* manufacturing and glass making.

The States with the highest number of child workers are: Andhra Pradesh 19.50 lakh, Madhya Pradesh 16.99 lakh, Maharashtra 15.58 lakh, UP 14.35 lakh and Karnataka with 11.31 lakh.

**New poverty alleviation programme launched:** The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme, envisaging an investment of Rs 6400 crore, was launched by Mr Narasimha Rao on November 18, 1995. The key components of the approach are empowering the community, strengthening urban local bodies and involvement of non-government organisations. The reach and effectiveness of existing sectoral programmes would be enhanced to have a bearing on the urban poor.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

**India-Pakistan Relations remain at lowest ebb:** India charged, Pakistan, again on February 29, 1996 of involvement in cross border terrorism and narcotics trade. In a detailed statement of the Ministry of External Affairs, five such incidents have been mentioned. In addition to the Purulia arms-drop and the seizure of 361 pistols and ammunition by the Delhi police, the other documented incidents are arrest in 1995 of a Pakistani national with a consignment of arms. An arms catch was also made in February following the arrest of four Pakistani nationals who were carrying pistols, ammunition and narcotics.

The Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr Riaz Khokhar, was summoned to the foreign office on April 29, 1996 and told that his comments about elections in Jammu and Kashmir being "rigged" were unacceptable, provocative and amounted to in-

terference in India's internal affairs.

Mr Khokhar had termed the Lok Sabha elections being held in Jammu and Kashmir as "farce", in an interview to a newspaper.

**Treaty on Mahakali river with Nepal:** India and Nepal signed a treaty on January 30, 1996 for the integrated development of the Mahakali river basin. The treaty was signed by the then External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Nepalese counterpart, Prakash Chandra Lohani. It recognises Nepal's equal rights for water sharing and other benefits accruing from future projects on the river. A long standing grievance has thus been resolved.

India also agreed on January 27, 1996 to open a second transit route at Phulwari on the Indo-Bangladesh border for giving easy access to export of Nepalese goods and announced a package for phasing out non-tariff barriers and encouraging more direct investment in the Himalayan kingdom.

**Visit of President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan:** During his visit to India from December 11, 1995 Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov cautioned against external interference saying that it posed a threat to peace and stability in the region. Besides Indo-Tajik relations, the situation in Afghanistan was discussed and developments in Tajikistan, which is being subjected to an onslaught by extremist forces.

Six agreements were signed during the visit covering political consultations, expansion of trade ties and cooperation in the fields of health, environment, science and technology, culture, art and cinematography.

**Protocol signed with France:** India and France signed a financial protocol on January 31, 1996 committing French funding for specified projects upto a sum of 376 million francs (about Rs 263 crore). The agreement was signed by the French ambassador in India, Philippe Petit and V. Govindrajan, joint secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs. A sum

of Rs 3.3 crore is for feasibility studies for power, food processing and electronics sector projects and another Rs 59.5 crore will be used to fund projects in the mining and irrigation sectors.

**Facts to boost economic ties with Canada:** India and Canada signed 47 business deals worth \$ 2.94 billion during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to India. The two countries also expressed their determination to work with the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms. At the conclusion of his six-day visit on January 14, 1996, a joint statement was issued exhorting all States to deny support to terrorists and support strengthening of global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

However, the visiting PM also held the threat of "toughening import restrictions" against goods produced by child labour. He said that Canadian companies were going to specifically prohibit child labour from being used in any goods they import. This caused some consternation among officials and businessmen.

Differences also persisted over India's stand over the NPT. Canada asked India to sign the controversial treaty. India insisted that the treaty be linked to the goal of universal disarmament.

**Agreements to boost economic ties with Israel:** India and Israel signed three agreements on January 29, 1996 on promotion and protection of bilateral investment, customs cooperation and avoidance of double taxation to boost economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The Israeli government offered a \$ 100 million line of credit to the Exim Bank of India for financing exports of capital goods from Israel to India. The Exim Bank would extend \$ 25 million line of credit on reciprocal basis. The two governments also agreed to assist development of joint ventures particularly in high-tech industries, telecommunications, aviation, agriculture and agro-technology, healthcare and medical equipment and textiles.



# Round-up of International Affairs

## Last 12 months in Review

The last 12 months witnessed historic events that could change world history. People in countries across the world have been expressing themselves and opting for governments that more closely reflect their needs. From Israel to Eastern Europe to Bangladesh, established ideas and regimes were getting upset in the face of people's will. In Taiwan, the elections took on the might of no less a power than China.

World history may remember 1996 as the year of the change, sometimes for old ideas and values. In Israel the people opted for the hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu and turned away from the dream of Nobel Peace Prize winner Shimon Peres. In countries across Eastern Europe and Russia, former communists staged a comeback; it would have seemed impossible a few years ago, but even Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was sent back by the people in favour of the communist Josef Olesky in Poland.

The period also saw peace return to the troubled Bosnia. The Chechen conflict too seemed to be over with Russia finally gaining an upper hand. But in Sri Lanka the war of the LTTE did not show signs of ending.

The world continued to have summits and conferences, the biggest one being the UN Women's Conference in Beijing. Talks on nuclear non-proliferation dominated the world. After the signing of the NPT, the superpowers geared up for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), for which preparations started during the year.

East politics. But the people of Israel themselves do not agree in which direction their country should go. The mandate is not clear but the victory of Netanyahu showed that Israelis were losing patience with the peace process. The responsibility of peace lies on the Arabs as well as Israel. The Arabs cannot expect Israelis to talk of peace as they continue planting bombs in Israel.

**Arafat Elected President:** In the elections held on January 20, 1996, Yasser Arafat was elected as the first President of the Palestinian State with a landslide victory securing 88% of the 1 million votes cast. The militant group Hamas boycotted the elections. On April 24, 1996, the Palestinian Council adopted the amendment revoking clauses from the PLO charter calling for Israel's destruction. The amendment ended 32 years of armed struggle against Israel. Arafat was bound by the 1993 peace accord to initiate the move for the amendment.

## ISRAEL

**Hardliner Netanyahu takes charge:** Likad leader Benjamin Netanyahu got just 50.4% of the votes, or 29,507 votes more than Peres out of the 3.1 million votes cast. But the margin was enough to install him as Prime Minister of Israel. Peres had been the architect of the Middle-East peace process and had won the Nobel Prize for his efforts. But the people of Israel were turning away from his "land for peace" accord, since even surrendering of land could not pacify the Arab militant groups, who continued to bomb civilian targets in Israel. Hamas suicide bombers had killed people in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv in March 1996. This had led to a peace summit in Egypt, in which more than 30 nations participated.

Israel responded to the Hamas bombings by launching 'Operation Grapes of Wrath' and Lebanon was pounded by

land, sea and air. The UN Security Council criticised Israel's continuing air raids aimed at destroying Hezbollah as a military force. The operation got out of hand when on April 18, 1996, Israel bombed a UN shelter in Qana and killed more than 100 refugees. A UN report released on May 7, 1996, said that the operation was not an accident but deliberate. Israel denied the accusations.

Netanyahu is a hardliner. Soon after his election, he declared on June 1 that he would reassess the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations and put on hold any further talks with Syria and Lebanon. Not surprisingly, the Arab world was taken aback and fear gripped its leaders. Though Netanyahu made a conciliatory speech, he had already pledged to prevent establishment of a Palestinian State and to give troops freer hand in operating in PLO areas. Netanyahu's election thus marked a historic change of direction in Middle-

## IRAN

**Conservatives lose majority:** In the two-stage polls in Iran, the conservative religious and political group, the Combatant Clergy Association (CCA), lost an outright control of the 270-seat Iran's Parliament. The final results, as emerged on April 22, 1996, revealed that although the Conservatives remained the largest single group in the House, they would have to depend on the support of the independents for survival. All the previous four assemblies, since the 1979 revolution, were dominated by one faction or group.

**Rushdie Exonerated:** On March 11, 1996 Iran announced its decision to drop the death sentence on the Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie, the author of the book 'The Satanic Verses'. The relief came to Rushdie after seven years. It was on February 14, 1989 that the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued the



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*fatwa* pronouncing the death sentence on him and in a radio broadcast exhorted all Muslims to carry out the sentence. Though Rushdie had tendered unqualified apologies for the distress caused on account of his book, the death sentence was not revoked. Since then Rushdie has been living under tight security.

### AFGHANISTAN

**Peace Accord Signed:** Two months after getting an offer from President Burhanuddin Rabbani, former Prime Minister and erstwhile foe Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the Hezb-e-Islami, on May 25, 1996 signed an agreement to restore peace in war-torn Afghanistan.

The six-point agreement calls for cessation of hostilities, establishment of an Islamic government, setting up of a national Islamic army and formation of an interim government to conduct elections.

Later, on May 29, the factions resolved that till elections were held, the interim government would be controlled by the Hezb-e-Islami and President Rabbani. While Rabbani would continue to hold the office of President, Hekmatyar would be Afghanistan's Prime Minister.

### PAKISTAN

**Domestic violence and international snubs:** Domestic violence continued in Pakistan. On November 19, 1995, two bomb blasts in Islamabad wrecked the Egyptian embassy killing six people and injuring several others. Workers and leaders of religious parties were rounded up. The finger of suspicion also fell on the International Islamic University in Islamabad, which according to a government report, had become the hotbed of terrorist activity. The university is financed by many Arab countries, a symbol of Islamic solidarity. It was revealed that 80 per cent of the staff and board members were not from Pakistan and the country had no control over them. For their part, the religious parties object to western influences in the country and called for a

general strike on December 30 against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's policies of "western secularism". Bhutto told the Islamic leaders to stay out of politics and devote themselves to religious teaching and rejected accusations that her policies were anti-Islamic.

The escalating violence in Karachi attracted US concern. US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burn issued a statement expressing concern about the violence in Pakistan's largest city. Pakistan accused the US of interfering in its internal affairs. The main opposition group, Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) however, said on January 2, 1996 that the atrocities taking place in Karachi were worse than those in Kashmir. This was the first time that any party had accepted that the situation in Karachi was grave. A bomb destroyed part of the cancer hospital built by former Pakistani cricket captain Imran Khan and on April 25, 1996 he announced his decision to enter politics by forming a movement of justice, which had the support of Pasban, the breakaway group of Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan's fundamentalist party.

**Snubbed on Kashmir issue:** Pakistan continued to raise the Kashmir issue in international forums but did not find many sympathisers. It was snubbed in the UN Women's Conference in Beijing and again in the SAARC Symposium held in Washington on May 18, 1996. Benazir Bhutto's visit to Sweden also turned out to be a damp squib, with no one ready to listen to her. The cool response from her hosts was evident when she was received at the airport by the Employment Minister and her talk with the Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson was curtailed. China too snubbed Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. At the UN Human Rights Conference, China debunked the issue of self-determination and said it was a 'fraudulent measure' used by Western powers to interfere in the affairs of other countries. Pakistan had earlier raised the issue of self-determination with regard to Kashmir.

**Nuclear programme:** Pakistan was still building its nuclear reactor, accord-

ing to a US defence study. It said that China was helping out with the plutonium re-processing plant at Chashma. In another report, US intelligence officials said that Pakistan was preparing for a nuclear test. Satellite pictures showed Pakistani workers excavating a mountain in Baluchistan. The US had warned Pakistan but the country was going ahead with its nuclear programme.

**Terrorism and human rights:** Other reports that came out during the year accused Pakistan of terrorism and having a poor human rights record. The International Secretariat of the World Organisation against Torture on February 19, 1996 accused Pakistani security personnel of violent repression in Azad Kashmir, Gilgit and Baltistan. Russia accused Pakistan of aiding Chechen rebels. Ethiopia alleged in a letter to the Security Council on January 18, 1996 that the rebels who tried to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last year were recruited in Pakistan. Activists charged that the country was becoming a haven for religious bigots.

### MYANMAR

**Pro-democracy movement gains ground:** After ten months of near silence, Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi stepped up the campaign for restoration of democracy in the country. Suu Kyi, who is the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), announced a three-day Congress to commemorate the sixth anniversary of her party's sweeping victory in the 1990 elections. To thwart her efforts, military government in Myanmar launched a massive crackdown and rounded up more than 250 NLD activists. The arrests invited sharp criticism from Japan and the USA.

Despite the detentions, on May 26, 1996, Suu Kyi inaugurated the conference in Yangon. The Congress ended with a series of resolutions, including drawing up a new draft Constitution. Suu Kyi sought world-wide support to pressurize the military regime in Myanmar to recognize the results of the 1990 elections, in

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which the NLD swept 82 per cent of the 485 seats. The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) had not recognised the poll outcome.

### BANGLADESH

**Year of political turmoil:** Bangladesh has been facing a period of instability. Begum Khaleda Zia was not a popular Prime Minister and she was accused of rigging the elections in 1994. In spite of rising unrest and the Opposition demand of holding elections under a neutral government, they were held on February 15, 1996, on schedule. The main Opposition parties, including the Awami League, boycotted the elections. Khaleda Zia won a landslide victory in those elections which, however, were termed as a farce. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina called for non-recognition of the government. Widespread strikes throughout the country in March and a civil disobedience movement forced Begum Zia to step down on March 30, 1996. President Abdur Rahman Biswas dissolved the Parliament and a caretaker Prime Minister was appointed.

On May 20, 1996, another crisis hit Bangladesh. The Army Chief, Lt Gen Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim was sacked by President Abdur Rahman Biswas for his defiance to execute orders and his refusal to fire two commanders allegedly having political ambitions. Troops came out of their garrisons but were sent back; tanks patrolled the streets of Dhaka but no incident took place.

Fresh elections were held and Sheikh Hasina won this time and took charge as Prime Minister. With the installation of a popular government, it is expected that normalcy will return to the country which has seen political upheaval in the past 12 months.

### SRI LANKA

**Efforts to end violence:** Sri Lanka has seen some of the worst terrorist violence

in recent times. During the year, Sri Lanka's army launched initiatives and inflicted heavy losses on the militants. Operation Riversa commenced on October 17, 1995, the biggest ever operation undertaken by Sri Lankan forces. The rebel bastion of Northern Jaffna was captured on December 2, 1995, after a 46-day offensive that left over 500 soldiers and 1900 militants dead besides rendering 500,000 civilians homeless. The symbol of Tamil militancy collapsed with the capture of the Dutch-built Jaffna Fort.

On January 31, 1996, a truckload of explosives was driven into the Central Bank building in Colombo, killing 200 people and injuring 1250 others. An LTTE suicide squad was behind the crime and President Chandrika Kumaratunga said that the rebels had attacked in desperation after suffering military setbacks and realising that the Tamil people were supporting a proposal to give them limited autonomy in some areas of the country.

But the resolve of the government was not shaken. The army launched Operation Riversa-II on April 19, 1996 to liberate the entire peninsula from LTTE control. A week later, on April 27, the army registered a commanding win when it captured the Kilali area. Located at the southern tip of the Jaffna peninsula, Kilali served as a

transit point for the rebels. The cornered LTTE tried to fight with propaganda and sought international mediation to stop the war but none was forthcoming. On the other hand, the US sent military experts to train local forces. Israel and Britain too showed interest in training the Sri Lankan army in their fight against the LTTE. At the same time, the government began efforts to find a political solution. A devolution package was presented to the Parliamentary select committee on Constitutional Reforms on March 7. Political parties were opposed to conversion to a federal State and it was evident that a great amount of political manoeuvring would be required before a solution can be reached.

### CHINA

**Emergence of a superpower:** China is fast emerging as the superpower in Asia. While it continued to expand influence all over the world, skeletons continued to fall out of its past, showing a complete disregard for human rights.

The country faced the wrath of the US, which threatened to deny it Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status on May 21, 1996, protesting against piracy of software and music in Chinese factories. The

### World trade growth slows down, says WTO report

A report published by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) says that after a bumper year in 1994, world trade expansion slowed slightly to 8 per cent in 1995. The value of cross border sales of goods and services topped the \$ 6 trillion mark for the first time. The report predicted that increase in world trade would ease further to 7% in 1996, down from 9.5% growth witnessed in 1994, but still well above the growth in international output.

The US remained the world's biggest trader and deficit nation in 1995, with imports at \$ 770.8 billion and exports at \$ 583.9 billion. Germany and Japan followed in the rankings.

Exports of office and telecom equipment led the growth items. They now account for 12% of merchandise trade, more than farm products. Sales of clothing stagnated, due to ease in US demand.

In overall value terms, world merchandise exports rose by 19% to \$ 4.9 trillion last year. Commercial services like banking and tourism were worth an estimated \$ 1.2 trillion, up by 14% since 1994. The big value hike was mainly due to the depreciation of the dollar against most other currencies.

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MFN status has to be renewed every year, a decision taken by US after the 1989 Tiananmen massacre. The row threatened to blow into a major trade war with the US saying that the piracy was causing it a loss of millions of dollars. Threats of US trade sanctions brought immediate retaliation from China. The US backed out and renewed the MFN status which was to expire from June 3, 1996. China also demanded that the USA keep its ties with Taiwan non-official. It protested against grant of a visa to a Taiwanese official and about the visit of Taiwanese premier to the US.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng visited France on April 10, 1996, the first to a European country, amidst demonstrations against human rights abuses by China. The French government bowed to Chinese pressure that reference to human rights not be included in the talks and the demonstrators accused the government of ignoring this vital issue for the sake of Chinese business contracts. Five trade accords were signed, including the Chinese order for 30 Airbus A-320 planes worth \$1.5 billion. Cuba's President Fidel Castro had earlier visited China on a nine-day State visit on November 29, 1995, show-

ing China's efforts to improve relations with the rest of the world. China also decided to strengthen bilateral relations with Vietnam. Vietnamese Communist party general secretary Do Muoi visited China and there were indications that relations between the two countries would improve, territorial disputes notwithstanding.

**Human Rights Abuses:** While China improved its influence in the world, reports about human rights violations were constantly coming out. A doctor who fled China, Zhang Shuyun, reported of systematic abuse of children in orphanages, including starvation, torture and sexual assault. To keep population of orphans down, orphanages in China chained children to their beds and allowed them to die of starvation. The report was backed by photographs and medical records.

Leading dissident Wei Jingsheng was sentenced to 14 years in prison for sedition charges even though he was in jail for all but six months for the last 16 years. Western governments condemned the action on the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, widely regarded as the father of China's modern democracy movement.

**Continued suppression in Tibet:** China continued its policy of suppression

against Tibet. It was reported that China had resorted to the harshest of measures since 1989 to suppress sentiments of independence among the people. On May 19, 1996, Chinese security forces came down heavily against Tibetans who were protesting against China's ban on photographs of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. China has banned rebuilding of monasteries destroyed during the cultural revolution and limited the number of monks and nuns in monasteries.

China imposed its own choice of Tibet's religious leader, the Panchen Lama. China kidnapped Dedhun Choekyi Nyima, the boy chosen by Dalai Lama to be the next Panchen Lama and selected one of its own, the six-year old Gyaincain Norbu. China denied it was holding Nyima but on June 1, 1996 it admitted that it was holding the seven-year old boy.

### TAIWAN

**Elections despite Chinese threats:** President Lee Teng-Hui stormed to a resounding victory in Taiwan's first direct presidential elections held on March 23, 1996. Lee's win was a message of defiance to Beijing, which tried for weeks with menacing war games to deter the voters. Instead of scaring Taiwan's 14.3 million voters, the threats increased support for Lee. China had threatened to recover Taiwan by force if it became independent. The US had sent its naval fleet off the Taiwan coast even as China conducted military exercises using live ammunition and fired missiles into the sea close to Taiwan. It later assured the US that it did not plan to invade Taiwan. The elections in Taiwan were hailed as the first in 5,000 years that Chinese people elected their leader.

### RUSSIA

**Return to the past?** Communist revival in Russia and unification of some of the States raised questions whether Russia was going back to its past. On March 15, 1996, the lower house of the Russian

### World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum opened on February 1 in Davos emphasising on the fact that globalisation has had serious backlashes on rich countries as far as the social sector is concerned. Interestingly, an increasing number of politicians in the North (the First World) have been warning that globalisation has been taking jobs and investment from the North to the South. This has created unemployment and a new underclass in the North. There have been major changes from what was the trend earlier. Before this extensive globalisation process, when corporate profits boomed, it meant more jobs and increased job security. However, now as companies announce record profits, they also announce slashing of jobs. Corporate loyalties seem to be changing and assuming new, inexplicable dimensions. Unemployment seems to be on the rise even in European countries. Society is becoming increasingly unequal. The pace of technical change makes old skills obsolete and it has become difficult for employees to keep pace with these changes. In fact, it has also been suggested that investment should be shifted back to the North from the South. In spite of all these problems, it was also accepted that globalisation has helped inequality decline in the world on the whole even though it might have increased in the North. The effects of the globalisation process on the whole world are quite paradoxical.

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Parliament, Duma, voted in favour of a resolution reversing the Russian legislature's decision to renounce the 1922 treaty that formed the Soviet Union. It declared that the 1991 accords between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus invalid and called upon President Yeltsin to take steps to reintegrate the former Soviet republics. The resolution was moved by the Russian Communist Party and had the support of 250 deputies to 98 against.

Though the resolution could not bring back the USSR, it became evident that the communists were becoming more influential and a mood of nostalgia was prevalent in Russia. It raised a controversy and some republics warned of imperialism. President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia called for a summit of CIS to stop the attempt to undermine the sovereignty of the 15

States that are now independent.

**States reuniting:** On April 2, 1996, Russia and Belarus signed a treaty binding the two States into a broad economic and political union, the Russia-Belarus union. Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kryghiz republics signed a treaty on March 29, 1996 on their economic and humanitarian integration, creating a co-operation mechanism within the CIS. The five-year treaty provides for free flow of capital, goods and human resources but it was not clear whether it was limited to cooperation or a new union was being created.

**Chechnya:** The war in Chechnya neared its end. On March 31, 1996, President Yeltsin announced a halt to the military operations in Chechnya. The war had claimed the lives of over 30,000 people and was an extremely unpopular one. Chechen leader Dudayev was killed. On May 27, 1996, Yeltsin signed an agreement with Chechen leader Yandarbiyev ending hostilities and to exchange of all prisoners of war. Yeltsin, however, said that he would not accept an independent Chechnya while the Chechens are equally adamant that they would not submit to rule from Moscow.

### KOREA

**Armistice violation by N. Korea:** On April 6, 1996, armed North Korean troops marched into the buffer zone with South Korea—their third violation in as many days of the 43-year-old armistice, which their government says is worthless.

On April 4, 1996 North Korea had announced that it would no longer observe the armistice that had ended the three-year Korean War in 1953.

The violation came despite US efforts to contact North Korea to protest the incursions. Officials in both Washington and Seoul called North Korea's violation serious but said it appeared to pose no risk of renewed fighting on the divided Korean Peninsula.

**Negotiations for end to war:** South Korean President Kim Youngsam and US

President Bill Clinton urged North Korea and China to join in negotiating a new four-power peace treaty to bring the Korean war to an end. Their proposal was a belated response to North Korea's sustained attack on the Korean armistice agreement, which has governed the ceasefire in the Korean war since 1953. China, however, refused to mediate.

### JAPAN

**Hashimoto becomes PM:** On January 5, 1996, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the nation's first Socialist head of government in half a century and Chairman of the Japanese Socialist Party, resigned. President of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Ryutaro Hashimoto, became the Prime Minister of Japan on January 11, 1996. In the election for the post Hashimoto got 288 votes against 167 by Ichiro Ozawa, leader of Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), Japan's Opposition party.

Hashimoto, who rose to prominence last year for his tough stance against United States over the 'car-trade row', has become the first LDP leader to become the Prime Minister since the party was ousted in 1993. The LDP had dominated Japanese politics for four decades. It was ousted in July, 1993 following a series of money scandals. Japan has been political turmoil since then. The coalition government led by Morihiro Hosokawa was formed in 1993 but he had also to resign in April 1994, over allegations in a money scandal. Tsutomu Hata, who was named the Prime Minister resigned two months later to avoid a no-trust move. This resulted in the return to power for LDP, who struck a deal with the Socialists. Murayama had become Prime Minister as a result of an alliance and lasted for 18 months.

### SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

**UN Women's Conference:** On September 4, 1995, about 5,000 delegates from 189 countries gathered at Beijing to attend

### Treaty to restrict use of land mines

According to estimates, about 25,000 persons are killed or maimed by landmines explosions every year. Many of the victims are children, who lose their limbs and are crippled for life. For long, the world has seen the agony of victims and now finally the world is doing something about it.

Amid criticism from some of the members and international humanitarian organisations, the United Nations, on May 3, 1996, adopted a new treaty to restrict the use of landmines. The main provisions of the treaty include banning of non-detectable anti-personnel mines in favour of self-destructing and self-deactivating mines. It demands that all mines contain at least eight gms of iron or equivalent to make them detectable. As regards remotely delivered mines, the treaty requires their destruction within 30 days and sets 120 days for their self-deactivating. The treaty will be extended to national as well as international conflicts.

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a 12-day UN Conference on Women. Earlier, on August 30, 1995, almost 26,000 women participated in a parallel Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Forum, 50 km away from the main conference venue.

The issues discussed covered a broad spectrum involving women—economic opportunities, health, reproductive rights, human rights, poverty, status of women, literacy, violence against women and women's share in political decision-making. Also in focus was the girl child.

**Non-Aligned Summit:** India won a spectacular victory at the 11th non-aligned summit at Cartagena in Columbia in its lone battle against the monopoly of the nuclear powers over atomic weapons. The three-day Cartagena summit from 18-20 October 1995 was attended by 113 countries.

Pakistan suffered a major setback when the NAM summit frustrated Islamabad's attempt to seek mediation in Kashmir and unequivocally condemned all kinds of support to terrorist activities.

### Africa Programme launched

The UN on March 14, 1996 launched a 10-year, \$ 25 billion programme for Africa, with support from the World Bank. The 'System-wide Special Initiative on Africa' is aimed at projects on education, health, food security, water, sanitation, information technology and governance programmes such as building an effective civil service and judicial systems. The social development projects are also aimed at reductions in amounts spent on arms and conspicuous consumption.

Strategies for debt relief are also on the list but the UN has less influence in this area. African debt is currently \$ 313 billion, equal to 234% of the continent's export income. Nearly half the debt is concentrated in Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Zaire and Angola.

The heads of State and government disapproved political, diplomatic, moral or material support to terrorist activities, particularly across the border.

The summit was critical of economic conditions imposed on developing countries, opposed interventionism and called for a joint fight against racism and xenophobia which marginalised the Third World.

**Commonwealth Summit:** The 52-member Commonwealth, in an unprecedented action on November 11, 1995, suspended Nigeria from membership of the group after the Nigerian military regime executed writer and human rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others despite international appeals for clemency.

Saro-Wiwa, noted writer and widely called African Gandhi, and the other eight minority rights campaigners were sentenced to death by a secret tribunal over the murder in 1994 of four pro-government Ogoni tribal chiefs.

The Commonwealth leaders meeting in Auckland opted to suspend rather than expel Nigeria from the body, allowing for possible readmission or expulsion depending on whether the oil-rich West African nation cleans up its poor human rights record.

The European Union was urged to impose an oil embargo on Nigeria to put pressure on its military rulers and British Prime Minister John Major announced a total ban on British defence exports to Nigeria as punishment.

Pakistan President Farooq Ahmed Leghari was snubbed when he sought to rise the Kashmir issue at the summit. He was firmly told by the chair not to raise bilateral matters at such gatherings.

The meet ended with a communique recommitting the group to democracy, development and a respect for human rights.

**UNHRC Annual Session:** The 53-nation UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) concluded its six-week annual session with adoption of a resolution condemning all violent acts and called for

### Smallpox eradicated

Delegates from 190 countries at the 49th World Health Assembly unanimously decided to destroy the existing stocks of smallpox (Variola) virus. The recent orders of WHO to two research centres in Russia and US to destroy remaining stocks of smallpox virus are claimed as the final step to mark the eradication of the deadly disease from the Earth. Less than 30 years ago, smallpox was endemic in 30 countries and used to claim 2 million lives every year.

On May 8, 1980 the WHO declared war for global eradication of smallpox and in March 1986 a WHO committee recommended the elimination of the remaining stocks. WHO will, however, keep 500,000 doses of the vaccine.

curbing secessionism. It also adopted a resolution condemning abuses in countries like Cuba, Iraq, Rwanda, Sudan and Zaire. However, China, which also faced a similar resolution co-sponsored by European Union and the United States, managed to get it defeated. Israel, which had the status of observer at the Commission, also faced an overwhelming condemnation from all quarters except from the United States, for its air raids in Lebanon.

On April 14, 1996, the Commission adopted an Indian-sponsored resolution condemning all violent acts and activities that infringe upon human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, tolerance and pluralism. It was the first time that the Commission had adopted such resolution. Pakistan made a futile attempt to dilute some of the clauses of the resolution, but owing to an overwhelming pressure in favour of Indian-sponsored draft, it withdrew its objections.

The UNHRC Secretary General presented its report on the problems related with the minorities. The UN Commission strongly condemned secessionist movements and called upon international community to condemn them. The commission

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stressed that solution to minority problems has to be found within the framework of existing States.

**Summit on Nuclear Safety:** The eight-nation summit proposed and hosted by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin began in Moscow on April 19, 1996. The two-day Nuclear Safety Summit concluded with a pledge from the world leaders for adopting nuclear safety measure. The summit, which brought Russia, Ukraine and Group of Seven together, approved cooperation measures dealing with nuclear energy, radioactive waste, weapon-grade material and nuclear smuggling.

Both Clinton and Yeltsin denied suggestions that their meeting was designed to boost their upcoming presidential elections. Officially, it was to take stock of Soviet Union's hazardous nuclear legacy. There are 26 aging Soviet-built reactors and each could become a disaster like Chernobyl. In the "parallel summit" held simultaneously, scientists and nuclear experts debated on how an accident could be avoided.

Ukraine reluctantly confirmed the closure of Chernobyl by the year 2000, in exchange for some \$ 3 billion in aid from the G-7.

**G-15 Summit:** The fifth Group of Fifteen (G-15) summit was held at Buenos Aires from 6-7 November, 1995. The two-day summit of the six-year old group with representatives from the Asia, Latin America and Africa focussed on greater business interaction among member States even as these countries tried to formulate a strategy for international economic co-operation beyond year 2000.

India, represented by the then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, took the lead in forming the Committee on Trade, Investment and Technology.

The G-15 leaders stressed the need for a constructive dialogue with the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised countries, and deliberated on the international situation and its impact on developing countries.

**ASEAN Meet:** The fifth ASEAN summit was held in Bangkok, on December

14-15, 1995, and brought together 10 countries in the region for the first time. The seven members Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam were joined by Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

At the end of the summit, the nations signed a treaty banning nuclear weapons from the region. The historic treaty, called the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) treaty, forbids the acquisition, development, use, testing and stationing of nuclear arms in their zone. A Bangkok declaration issued by the ASEAN urged nuclear powers Britain, China, France, Russia and the US to back the treaty and implement measures to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons.

ASEAN leaders also endorsed the acceleration of trade liberalisation by reducing tariff barriers on nearly 40,000 products by 2003. It wants to reduce duties on thousands of products and set up an ASEAN free trade area (AFTA) by 2003.

**APEC Forum:** The APEC forum leaders on November 19, 1995 at Osaka adopted a blueprint for achieving free trade in the region over the next quarter century. The 18-member group adopted nine principles as the basis of liberalisation to achieve the long-term goal of free and open trade and investment no later than the year 2010 in the case of industrialised economies and the year 2020 in the case of developing economies.

China stole the limelight by promising a dramatic opening of its market from next year. It has planned to cut tariffs on imports to its market of 1.2 billion people by 30 per cent from 1996.

### BOSNIA

**Peace Accord Signed:** After nearly four years of fighting, a peace accord was signed by the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia in Paris on December 14, 1995. French President Jacques Chirac, US President Bill Clinton and leaders of Britain, Germany, Russia and Spain also signed the accord. Under the agreement, Bosnia

will be divided into two equal parts, one for the Serbs and the other for the Muslim-Croat federation. The devastated divided capital of Sarajevo will be reunited under rule of the Muslim-led government.

Some 60,000 NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) troops have been committed to enforce the plan to end the conflict that has left 200,000 people dead or missing and millions homeless. The operation, NATO's biggest since World War II, will use IFOR personnel to enforce agreements arrived at the US brokered talks at Dayton in November, 1995. The Dayton accord included a time-table for withdrawing forces from the frontline, the return of forces to the barracks, the establishment of institutions and elections.

**Sarajevo united:** Divided by war for almost four years, Sarajevo was reunited on March 19, 1996 as the last of the Serb areas passed to the Muslim-Croat federation. After days of looting and arson by angry Serbs, the federation police moved into Grbavica to take control.

### UK

**Crisis Due to Mad Cow Disease:** The mad cow disease, which was first recognised in November 1986, surfaced into prominence in March, 1996, with 10 children getting infected. The disease is known as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), popularly called mad cow disease, a disease that destroys the nerve cells of cows and can pass on to humans through consumption of beef.

The fear of infected beef caused a panic around the globe as countries suspended imports. Much to the agony of the British Prime Minister John Major, the European Union on March 25, 1996 recommended a global ban on British beef export. On March 27, the European Commission, while offering help to the battered industry, banned the sale of British beef and cattle to the world. Britain agreed to slaughter its 12 million cattle stock to check the disease.



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### IRELAND

**IRA Breaks Cease-fire with Bomb Attack:** A powerful bomb blast on February 9, 1996, in London's Docklands business district, virtually brought an end to the 17-month old cease-fire by IRA, which began on August 31, 1994.

While US Government threw its weight behind the demand of British and Irish Governments asking IRA for renunciation of violence and honouring the cease-fire, Gerry Adams of Sinn Feinn, IRA's political wing, pleaded with Britain and Ireland to give a watertight pledge on holding all-party northern Ireland talks to salvage peace efforts. The IRA, in turn, blamed UK for the break-down in peace process and vowed to keep up its armed campaign against British rule.

### ITALY

**Change of Guard:** Italy's election of April 21, 1996, gave its centre-left Olive Tree coalition, led by Romano Prodi, a control over both the Houses of Parliament. The Chamber of Deputies (the Lower House of Parliament) gave the coalition a three-seat majority and in the Senate they got 167 seats as against Right's 117 seats. It was for the first time, since the republic was established after the World War II, that a Left-headed Government has come to power in Italy. The elections brought the Freedom Alliance's leader Silvio Berlusconi, who served as Prime Minister for a brief period, virtually on the threshold of losing his political career, for being involved in the corruption charges and loosing in the elections. However, the elections saw the strengthening of Alessandra Mussolini, the right-wing leader who successfully retained her seat in the Lower House.

### SPAIN

**Socialist rule ends:** Conservative leader Jose Maria Aznar's Popular Party edged the Socialist Party of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in elections, bringing

an end to the rule by Socialists. Aznar campaigned largely on the proposal that consolidation of Spain's 20-year old democracy requires exorcising fears of the right wing rooted in four decades of oppressive rule by dictator Francisco Franco. Aznar was, however, unable to win a majority.

### SOUTH AFRICA

**New Constitution:** With an overwhelming majority, South Africa's Constitutional Assembly adopted a new Constitution on May 8, 1996. While the Zulu Nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party had boycotted the Constitutional Assembly, the Afrikaner Nationalist Freedom Front abstained on ratification vote.

The new post-apartheid constitution provides for equal rights and majority rule. Its Bill of Rights guarantees the right to adequate housing, food, water, education and health care. It bans discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy or marital status. The new Constitution replaces the transitional Constitution that came into force after April, 1994 elections. It will take effect gradually over the next three years and will come into force fully with the next national elections in 1999.

### NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

**South Pacific declared N-free:** On March 25, 1996 the United States, Britain and France signed a treaty declaring 30 million square km of South Pacific a nuclear-free zone. Following announcement made by France in January, 1996, to end its nuclear testing, the signing of treaty draws an extra significance. The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty was adopted in 1985 by the 16-member South Pacific Forum. The Treaty bans the testing, storage and deployment of nuclear weapons in the zone. However, analysts feel that the treaty will have little more than symbolic significance until a comprehensive test ban is affected. On the other hand, New Zealand Prime Minister

Jim Bolger felt that the signing closes a sorry chapter for South Pacific. Japan too welcomed the treaty as a step towards nuclear non-proliferation.

**Africa signs treaty to become nuclear-free zone:** On April 11, 1996, African nations signed an agreement to make Africa a nuclear-free one. In all 49 African nations signed the agreement. The regional pact, known as African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty or the Treaty of Pelindaba, envisages not to build, test or stockpile nuclear weapons and not to bury imported nuclear waste. The move for this agreement was initiated when France carried out its first nuclear test in Sahara deserts in the 1960's. As a part of this pact, Britain, China, France and the United States pledged not to test or use nuclear weapons in Africa.

### US-JAPAN

**US pledges to keep 100,000 troops in Asia-Pacific:** After two years of contentious trade relations, US President Bill Clinton's three-day visit to Japan opened up new vistas of military alliance for the two nations. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, expectations were aired about the withdrawals of American forces from Japan and northeast Asia and more so because of the Okinawa incident in which a Japanese school girl was raped by American troops. Dispelling these apprehensions the US President Bill Clinton asserted that the United States will retain its current level of 1,00,000 troops in the region, including about 47,000 in Japan, to preserve peace and uphold US interests.

On April 17, 1996, US President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto signed the security document for maintaining a stable and prosperous environment for Asia-Pacific region. Though the Japanese constitution forbids it from developing an offensive military capability, the new pact pledged closer cooperation on the development of military technology. Japan also committed to spend \$ 25 billion to support the US troops over the next five years.



# Economy Capsule

## I. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND FORECASTS

### World Economy to grow by 4.1%: IMF:

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the world economy is expected to grow by 4.1 per cent during 1996, its fastest growth rate in eight years. This was revealed by the Executive Director of the Fund, Mr Michel Camdessus, during the meeting of the IMF in New York in December 1995. Even 1995 was a good year from this point of view when the world economy registered a growth rate of 3.7 per cent. Prior to this, the year 1988 witnessed 4.6 per cent growth rate in the global economy. World trade, which grew by 9.5 per cent in 1994, registered an impressive growth of 8 per cent in 1995 and is likely to be healthy during 1996 also, though slightly lower than the previous year. USA is likely to register an annual average growth rate of 2.5 per cent during the next 5 years with inflation rate at 3 per cent per annum. The European Union (EU) countries are likely to experience 2.6 per cent growth in 1996 and 2.9 per cent in 1997.

A group of experts in April 1996 have, however, estimated the growth rate of the world economy at 3 per cent during 1996, rising to 3.3 per cent in 1997. This would be facilitated by rapid economic growth in many countries of South and East Asia. Projected during the meeting of Project LINK at United Nations headquarters, where the views of over 100 international experts were considered, projections were also segregated for various continents/groups of nations. The growth rate in South and East Asia is expected to be 6.6 and 6.7 per cent during 1996 and 1997, respectively. Developing countries as a group are likely to grow by 5.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent, respectively, during the above two years. China, however, will

continue to register a very high growth rate of 8.9 per cent in 1996, followed by 8.4 per cent in the year to follow. Project LINK is under the joint responsibility of 1980 Nobel Laureate Lawrence Klein, Prof Peter Pauly of the University of Toronto and the UN Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis. The group of experts independently develop forecasts for their economies which are compiled and harmonised to create a consistent picture of global economic prospects. The experts, despite positive growth rate projections, also expressed serious concern over the problems of unemployment and growing economic inequalities in the world.

### Good Performance by Poor Countries:

As seen by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World's poorest nations improved their economic performance during 1994 and 1995. This has been experienced due to good agricultural crops, better commodity prices in the primary sector and removal of several supply side constraints. After many years of virtual stagnation, the economies of 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) grew by more than 3 per cent. Continent-wise, this rate was at 2.2 per cent among the African LDCs while this rate was, at an average, at 4.6 per cent by the LDCs in Asia. As per UNCTAD these growth levels are likely to continue during 1996 also. The levels of export by the LDCs are, however, declining as percentage of the total world exports. In 1970 the share of LDCs in the World exports was 1.7 per cent which declined to 0.4 per cent in 1994. Total imports of the LDCs were as low as 0.7 per cent which declined to 0.4 per cent in 1994. Total imports of the LDCs were also as low as 0.7 per cent in 1994. It was also revealed by the annual report that the globalisation

and liberalisation of the world economy provide long-term opportunities to the LDCs by offering wider export markets and enhanced demand for tropical fruit, fish and other processed products.

**Incomes of Humanity Rising:** The World Bank Atlas released on December 30, 1995 estimates that average human's share in the world income was \$ 4,600 in 1994, which was \$ 45 higher than the previous year. The World Bank experts compute average incomes of 150 countries of the world by totalling the value of everything produced in each country and then dividing it by each country's total population. To compute the average world income, the results of all 150 countries are combined. But just like any other average, this average is also misleading. In a world fraught with extreme income disparities, the average income concept can be highly misleading and may have to be used sparingly. For example in Ethiopia, the average per-capita income is as low as \$ 130 per year while this average per capita is as high as \$ 39,850 per annum in Luxembourg in Europe. These figures provide a guide post to the economists to measure a country's economic progress or lack of it. During the last 10 years, Thailand has registered the highest growth in its average per capita which rose from \$ 830 in 1985 to \$ 2210 in 1994. The prospects, as per the report, in many developing countries are improving. But the report also sounds an alarm for many countries in Africa and the CIS where the average per capita income during the past 10 years is on the decline. The report further mentions that in many developing countries like China, Indonesia, South Korea and Singapore, rapid increase in per capita incomes is coupled with rapid increase in literacy rates. All these countries have witnessed more than 6 per cent growth

rate over the last one decade and have 96 per cent or more children in the primary schools.

**IDA-11 Enhanced:** International Development Agency (IDA) finally got a nod from its donors to enhance IDA-11. From \$ 18 billion, IDA-11 would be to the tune of \$ 22 billion. It also means that the concessional debt available to the poorer countries from this soft-loan window of the World Bank would be more. Actual fresh contributions to the IDA-11 would just be \$ 11 billion, with the remaining coming from past arrears, repayments and the contributions of the World Bank. While the total kitty has increased, it does not mean that India's share in the concessional aid would also increase. In fact, strong lobbying is going on in the IDA to exclude the name of India from the list of IDA beneficiaries. In the years to come, India shall have to prepare for such an eventuality.

**G-7 fails to Break the Ice:** The meet of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations, a gathering of seven most industrialised nations of the world, which was held in April 1996 in Washington in conjunction with the semi-annual gathering of the IMF and the World Bank, disappointed most of the developing World. Due to lack of G-7 nations to make financial commitments, almost all major issues had to be shelved by the Interim Committee of the IMF. The rich countries were mainly concerned with the growth of the Europe and CIS, ignoring the developmental needs of the remaining world. The seven economic powers, which include the USA, Japan, France, Germany, Britain, Canada and Italy, expressed their satisfaction over the value of US dollar. These countries also expressed their support to Russia by praising her economic reforms and hinted at a huge debt write-off for it. No effort was, however, made to discuss the long-pending issue of debt relief to the developing world in general.

**Infrastructure most Important:** ADB: According to one study funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian countries need to spend \$ 6.9 trillion over the next 25 years, with an annual average of \$ 280 billion every year on infrastructure, to retain the position of fastest growing continent of the world. Stressing the need for infrastructure development, the ADB President, Mr Mitsuo Sato, informed that about 30 years ago only 18 per cent of Asian population lived in urban areas while today about 33 per cent was in urban areas, and by the year 2020 AD, the continent is expected to become predominantly urban. The study, which was released in April 1996, also noted with concern that the rapidly increasing urban population was putting heavy pressures on the existing infrastructure for water supply, sanitation, drainage, energy, transportation and waste management. The Bank feels that the infrastructure development of the required level would mainly come from private investment. Another option suggested is to strengthen the urban local bodies, giving them more liberty to raise revenues and authority to take decisions, particularly pertaining to the infrastructure development.

## **II. INDIAN ECONOMY**

**Economic Survey 1995-96:** Pre-budget Economic Survey for the year 1995-96 was brought out by the Government in February 1996. The Survey underlined many strengths of the economy and its marked improvement over the level of development during 1991-92. At the same time, the Survey also warns of some grey areas which need immediate attention of the government. As per the Survey, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to increase by 6.2 per cent during 1995-96. Gross Domestic Savings which, at 21.3 per cent of the GDP during 1993-94, were causing worry to the policy makers, staged a dramatic come back with a high level of 24.4 per cent during 1994-95. As per provisional estimates of the Planning Commission, in 1993-94 the incidence of poverty

declined to 19 per cent of the total population. The economy has also witnessed to steady rise in the growth of employment opportunities. The annual average of growth in employment generation has been 6.3 million jobs per annum between 1992-93 and 1994-95, with 7.2 million additional jobs created in 1994-95. Even the external sector has remained steady. With the export growth rate of over 20 per cent and imports growing at 29 per cent in dollar terms, the trade deficit widened to \$ 3.53 billion during the April-September 1995. Industrial sector registered an impressive growth of 12 per cent during April-September 1995 as compared to 8.6 per cent during 1994-95. This industrial growth is not confined only to a few industries but is well spread out. The news on the agriculture front is not very bright. Despite a fairly good monsoon during the year 1995, in which 33 out of 35 meteorological sub-division received normal to excess rainfall, the food-grain production fell by 0.6 per cent. However, cash crops like coffee, cotton and tea have registered a good growth. The production of pulses is expected to be 14.8 million tonnes, as against 14.1 million tonnes during 1994-95. But the Survey also notes with concern that daily per capita availability of the pulses in the country has fallen significantly from 69 grams in 1961 to about 37 grams in 1995.

Despite the good news about most of the sectors, the Survey also underlines some areas where adequate attention is needed. Major lacunae in overall policy for infrastructure sector have been admitted. To cope up with economic reforms, a great deal is required to be done in the infrastructure sector to facilitate the industrial and external sector to grow rapidly. It has also been noted that the traditional policy of handling of infrastructure exclusively by the government has to go and, to improve efficiency and accountability, private investment is a must in this sector during the years to follow. Similarly, failure of the government to control the fiscal deficit has also been noted with concern. Fiscal deficit during 1995-96 was 5.9 per cent as against a target of 5 per cent. To

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reduce the rising government debt, disinvestment of government equity from the PSUs must be carried out rapidly. The Economic Survey further states an urgent need to develop markets for long-term financing of infrastructure projects and establishing credible and transparent system to attract and inject private investment in this field. The Survey also suggested some measures to improve the sagging growth in the Agriculture Sector. It calls for eliminating the bias against this sector in the overall incentive framework and suggests removal of restrictions on internal and external trade of agricultural products. It also suggests higher private and government investment in the primary sector. Another suggestion has been made to do away with licence system for agro-based industries, so that the farmers are benefited in the long-run.

**Interim Budget—1996-97:** As the 11th General Elections were due, the government did not present the regular budget on February 29, 1996, but an interim budget, also called the "Vote on Account" for a period of four months (April-July 1996). The expenditure was allowed by the Parliament out of the Consolidated Fund of India for this period only but the estimates for revenue and expenditure were prepared for the entire year. The total expenditure voted is to the tune of Rs 66,528 crore for the above period. The budget also notes that during 1995-96 total tax revenue of the Union Government was Rs 81,088 crore as against the budgeted revenue of Rs 74,374 crore. While the tax revenue showed an increase of Rs 6,714 crore, food and fertilizer subsidies also exceeded the targeted outlay and were Rs 11,735 crore as against the budgeted amount of Rs 10,650 crore. Fiscal deficit was Rs 64,010 crore against the targeted figure of Rs 57,634 crore, and was 5.9 per cent of the GDP. The interim budget has estimated the fiscal deficit for 1996-97 at Rs 62,404 crore, which would be 5 per cent of the GDP. Budgetary deficit has been kept at Rs 5,000 crore. Out of the total expenditure of Rs 2,02,024 crore, Rs 50,521 crore have been

provided for plan expenditure, which reflects an increase of 4 per cent in the plan expenditure over the previous year. This entire increase has been provided for Rural Development in the Social Sector. Thus, the total expenditure on Rural Development during the Eighth Five Year Plan would be Rs 33400 crore as against an outlay of Rs 33,000 crore for 1996-97. Amount for food subsidy has been raised to Rs 5774 crore while the fertilizer subsidy is at Rs 6800 crore, taking the total subsidy figure to Rs 12,574 crore during 1996-97.

The Vote on Account also underlined some serious problems facing the economy. Increase in the quantum of non-plan expenditure has been one such areas of serious concern. While non-plan expenditure is increasing rapidly, the growth of plan expenditure has been subdued over the years, increasing the gap between the two. The interim budget proposed an increase of about 12 per cent in non-plan expenditure, while the same for plan expenditure was 4 per cent. Increasing burden of interest payments is also another such areas of concern. While during the previous financial year, the government paid Rs 52,000 crore as interest, this amount has been kept at Rs 60,000 crore for the current financial year.

**New Credit Policy:** New slack season Credit Policy was announced by the RBI on April 3, 1996. One of the main features was the reduction in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 1 per cent from 14 per cent to 13 per cent. It was estimated that this measure alone would release in the economy funds to the tune of Rs 3800 crore from the banking sector, both in terms of lower reserve requirements and greater freedom on the deposit front. It would further result in developing the mature money and foreign exchange market. The Policy further removed CRR requirements on the Non-Resident External (NRE) rupee deposits. It also announced reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on NRE from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. Further, the entry of the Corporates into the money market

mutual funds has been allowed. Allowing freer handling of deposits by the banks, the ratio of cash credit component to loan component has been reversed and now the cash credit would be to the tune of 40 per cent of the maximum permissible bank finance, while the loan component would be 60 per cent of the bank finance in excess of Rs 20 crore. Moreover, interest rates on the NRE term deposits of over two years have been freed but other deposit and leading rates have been kept unchanged. In addition, select banks have been allowed to carry out cross-currency transactions to the overseas markets and the RBI has decided to set up a technical committee on forex markets. All these measures are expected to make available additional lendable resources to the tune of Rs 5200 crore. The policy reflected a cautious approach to make sure that the increased lendable resources do not put undue pressure on the price level.

**Exports grow by 21.38 per cent:** During the year 1995-96 Indian exports touched a new high of \$ 31.38 billion, signifying a growth of 21.38 per cent over the previous year's exports of \$ 26.223 billion. This achievement came against a target of 18 to 20 per cent growth of exports. Imports during this period have been recorded to the tune of \$ 36.369 billion as against \$ 28.251 billion during 1994-95 reflecting a growth of 28.74 per cent. As a result, the trade deficit during 1995-96 touched the level of \$ 4.538 billion which is more than double the deficit of \$ 2.027 billion in 1994-95.

The government has also released the export and import targets for the current financial year. While the exports are expected to be around \$ 37-\$38 billion, the imports are likely to touch \$ 45 billion, increasing the trade deficit to \$ 7 billion. These targets are in tune with the overall estimates worked out for achieving a target of \$ 76 billion of exports by the year 2001 AD. This overall long term target is based on the assumption that the exports would continue to grow at over 20 per cent per year in dollar terms and the imports at

around 25 per cent. When this target is achieved in 2001 AD, India's share in world exports would rise from present level of half a per cent to one per cent.

**Rising Oil Imports:** As per one estimate, India's oil import bill could rise upto 25 per cent in 1996-97, increasing from Rs 22,000 crore (\$ 6.4 billion) in 1995-96 by Rs 5000 to Rs 6000 crore (\$ 1.45 billion to \$ 1.73 billion). These estimates are based on the fact that as against the target of 38.7 million tonnes of crude production, India could achieve the output of only 35 million tonnes during 1995-96, while the annual demand during this year was 70 million tonnes. During the years to come heavy dependence on the import of crude oil is likely to continue. The demand figures for petro-products have been placed at 120 million tonnes for 2001-2002 AD. The growth in demand for petroleum products was 6.3 per cent upto 1994-95 (averaged annual) but during the current financial year as well in the next two to three years, this growth is likely to be at 10 to 11 per cent.

**Alarming External Debt:** During the year 1995, India's external debt touched a new peak of \$ 99.05 billion before receding to \$ 93.84 billion by the end of September 1995. India's total debt liability, which was \$ 75.9 billion in 1990, rose sharply to \$ 85.3 billion in 1991 and to \$ 92.7 billion in 1994. The decline of \$ 5.20 billion in the external debt, during April-September 1995, was not on account of actual reduction and major part of the reduction was due to exchange rate variation only. The real decrease was only \$ 1.77 billion. To overcome the threat caused by the high external debt, the government has to ensure that the annual growth of the exports in dollar terms continues to be over 20 per cent for atleast next 5 years.

**CSO Estimates:** As per the estimates of Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), India's GDP went up by 6.3 per cent during 1994-95, as against 5 per cent during the previous year. The rate of domestic

savings increased from 21.4 per cent in 1993-94 to 24.4 per cent. Per Capita Income during 1994-95 rose by 4.8 per cent. In real terms, per capita income was Rs 2401 during 1994-95 as against Rs 2292 for 1993-94. At current prices, this income was Rs 8237 and Rs 7060, respectively. GDP at constant (1980-81) prices in 1994-95 was Rs 2,51,010 crore while at current prices it was Rs 8,54,103 crore, as against Rs 7,23,103 crore in 1993-94. Increase in the GDP at current prices registered a growth of 18.1 per cent.

**Industrial Prospects Brighten:** Industrial growth rate during the first 6 months of 1995-96 was at an encouraging 12 per cent as per the Economic Survey. Also, according to the quick estimates of the CSO industrial sector registered an impressive growth between April-December 1995. In several sub-sectors like metal alloys and products, transport and transport equipment, electrical parts etc, and other manufacturing industries, the growth rate has been above 15 per cent during this period with electrical appliances and machinery achieving the highest growth rate of 36.4 per cent.

**19 per cent below Poverty:** As per figures released by the Planning Commission in January 1996, the percentage of people living below the poverty line was 18.96 per cent in 1993-94. In terms of absolute figures, this number was 168.58 million. These figures were on the basis of half sample carried out by National Sample Survey for 1993. While the incidence of poverty in the urban areas is only 11.55 per cent, this percentage is as high as 21.68 in rural areas. These figures have been seen with disbelief by many, as during the last year itself, OXFAM had found in a study that the incidence of poverty was actually on the rise in the country. As per the OXFAM study, people living below poverty line fell from 57.33 per cent in 1971 to 35.55 per cent in 1990, but by the end of 1991 the percentage rose sharply to 42.06 per cent and in 1992 it was 48.6 per cent. It is thus unbelievable that in one year the percentage came down to 19 per cent. However, the Planning

Commission admits that the figures are provisional and may change once the report on full sample is available.

**Inflation Subdued:** Since December 1996, the inflation rate has remained quite subdued. During the week ending April 13, 1996 it touched a new low of 4.19 per cent. While this happened, the inflation rate continued to hover below 5 per cent level for the 12th week in succession and in single digit in 55 weeks in succession. But there are apprehensions that even after remaining at a level of 6 to 7 per cent during 1995-96, the inflation rate may shoot up to 10 to 11 per cent in 1996-97, as the administered prices and oil prices are overdue for an increase.

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# Round-up of Current General Knowledge

## ABBREVIATIONS

**APEC:** Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation.  
**ARF:** Asian Regional Forum.  
**ASEAN:** Association of South East Asian Nations.  
**ASLV:** Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle.  
**BOLT:** BSE On-Line Trading (System).  
**CAPEX:** Computer Aided Paperless Examination System.  
**CLASP:** Child Labour Action and Support Project.  
**CTBT:** Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.  
**DRDO:** Defence Research and Development Organisation.  
**ERNET:** Educational and Research Network.  
**FII:** Foreign Institutional Investor.  
**FPS:** Family Pension Scheme, 1971.  
**GDI:** Gender-related Development Index.  
**GEM:** Gender Empowerment Measure.  
**HDI:** Human Development Index.  
**IIRS:** Indian Institute of Remote Sensing.  
**IFOR:** (NATO) Implementation Force (for Bosnia).  
**IMCD:** Integrated Mother and Child Development.  
**IPR:** Intellectual Property Rights.  
**IRA:** Insurance Regulatory Authority.  
**IRS:** Indian Remote Sensing Satellite.  
**ISDN:** Integrated Services Digital Network.  
**ISTRAC:** ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Centre.  
**JPC:** Joint Parliamentary Committee.  
**LCA:** Light Commercial Aircraft.  
**MMMF:** Money Market Mutual Fund.  
**NAFTA:** North America Free Trade Agreement.  
**NAWO:** National Alliance for Women.  
**NCTE:** National Council for Teacher Education.  
**NHRC:** National Human Rights Com-

mission.

**NPT:** Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.  
**NRF:** National Renewal Fund.  
**NSAP:** National Social Assistance Programme.  
**NWRC:** National Water Resources Council  
**OTCEI:** Over the Counter Exchange of India  
**PAN:** Panchromatic Camera.  
**PILCOM:** Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka Committee (for World Cup 1996).  
**PSLV:** Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.  
**REACH:** Rehabilitate, Educate and Support Street Children.  
**SAARC:** South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation.  
**SAPTA:** South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement.  
**SATTE:** South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange.  
**TACDE:** Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment.  
**TRAI:** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India  
**WOMEC:** World Mining Environment Congress.  
**WTO:** World Trade Organisation.

## AWARDS

### NATIONAL AWARDS

**Arjuna Awards, 1994**

**S**ACHIN Tendulkar (Cricket), Karnam Malleswari (Weightlifting), Jaspal Rana (Shooting), Jude Felix (Hockey), S. Rajaratnam (Kabaddi), Ashok D. Desai (Kabaddi), K.C. Rosa Kutty (Athletics) and Maj R.S. Bhanwala (Rowing).

**Bihari Puruskar**

**N**OTED Hindi playwright from Rajasthan, Mr Hamidulla, was honoured with the *Bihari Puruskar*. He received the award for his famous Hindi play *Har baar*. The *Bihari Puruskar* is meant for literary works in Hindi for writers belonging to Rajasthan.

## Borlaug Awards

For botanical research and promotion of science and biotechnology: Dr Manju Sharma and Mrs Sulochana Gadgil share the prize.

For outstanding contribution in breeding high yielding wheat varieties: Dr Sanjay Rajaram of CIMMYT, Mexico.

For contribution to high yielding basmati rice: Dr E.A. Siddiq, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

For contribution to soil fertility and fertiliser use: Dr J.C. Katyal, Director of ICAR Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad.

## Dadabhai Naoroji Memorial Award

**D**R Verghese Kurien, chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for "advancing the interests of India in the sphere of cooperation and rural development".

## Indira Gandhi National Integration Award

**T**HE tenth Indira Gandhi National Integration Award was shared by slain Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh (posthumous) and noted Gandhian social worker Natwar Thakkar, for their outstanding contributions to national integration.  
**Jamnalal Bajaj awards, 1995**

For outstanding contribution in the field of constructive work: Mr Kashinath Trivedi

## Ashok Chakra

Major Rajiv Kumar Joon of 22 Grenadiers was posthumously awarded the *Ashok Chakra* for his exemplary courage and self-sacrifice while fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir in September 1994.

Lt Col Harish Uday Singh Gaur and Naib Subedar Suran Singh were posthumously decorated with *Ashok Chakra*, for laying down their lives in the battle against foreign mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir.

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

of Indore.

*For application of science and technology for rural development:* Mr G. Muniratnam of the Rayalaseema Seva Samithi, Tirupati.

*For help to upliftment and welfare of women and children:* Mrs Vimla Bahuguna of Navjivan Ashram, Silyera, Tehri Garhwal (UP).

*For promoting Gandhian values outside India:* Mrs Kamala of the Gandhi Memorial Centre, Washington D.C.

### Jnanpith Award

**R**ENOWNED Malayalam writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair was selected for the prestigious award for 1995 for his enrichment of Indian literature through his creative writing. The award carries a plaque, a bronze replica of Vagdevi and a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh.

### Kabir Puruskar

**T**HE *Kabir Puruskar* was given to three persons: J.A. Rasheed (Kerala), Naseem Ahmed Siddiqui (Uttar Pradesh) and Fredrick Prakash S.J. (Gujarat) for their outstanding acts of courage during the December 1992 riots.

### Kalidas Samman

**N**OTED theatre personality Kavlam Narayan Panikkar was selected for *Kalidas Samman* for theatre, 1995. The award has been instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government.

### Lata Mangeshkar Award

**P**OPULAR playback singer Talat Mehmood was awarded the Lata Mangeshkar award, instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government. It was received by Mr Mehmood's son, Khalid.

### Moortidevi Award, 1994

**M**ARATHI writer Shivaji Govindrao Sawant was given the Moortidevi Award for 1994 for his novel *Mrityunjaya*.

### Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, 1994

India's ace rowing pair of Cdr Hem D. Motiwala and Lt Cdr P.K. Garg were jointly selected for the third Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.

### Neerja Bhanot award, 1995

**M**RS Radhabai of Trichur, Kerala, was selected for the award. This annual award is given to an Indian woman who is subjected to social injustice and fights it with guts and grit and helps other women in similar distress.

### Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna award, 1995

**M**OHAMMAD Younus, grandson of Frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, was given the award for his contribution to the promotion of peace, communal harmony and in the fight against violence and terrorism.

### Sanjay and Geeta Chopra Awards

**T**HE Geeta Chopra award was given to 11-year old Anita Rawat of Uttar Pradesh, who put up a brave front in resisting the attempts of some Holi revellers who had tried to molest her.

Sudhir Sardana of Haryana was selected for the Sanjay Chopra award for getting an intruder arrested who had killed his father.

### Saraswati Samman

**M**ALAYALAM poetess N. Balamani Amma has been selected for the *Saraswati Samman* for 1995.

### Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards, 1995

*For mathematical sciences:* Dr Rajendra Bhatia of the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi.

*For engineering sciences:* Dr Kamario Chattopadhyay of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

*For earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences:* Dr B.N. Goswami of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

*For Physical Sciences:* Dr Mustansir Barma, TIFR, Bombay and Dr B. Sriram Shastry of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

*For Chemical sciences:* Dr Chandrasekhar of Indian Institute of Science and Dr K.L. Sebastian of Cochin University.

*For Biological Sciences:* Dr S.E. Hasnain of National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi and Dr K. Muniyappa of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

*For Medical Sciences:* Dr Subrat K.

### Gandhi Peace Prize

**Dr Julius Kambarage Nyerere**, former President of Tanzania, has been selected for the first Gandhi Peace Prize for social, economic and political transformation through non-violence. The award is worth Rs 1 crore prize and is the biggest and most prestigious award of the country.

Panda of AIIMS, New Delhi and Dr Anil Tyagi of Delhi University.

### Vachaspati Puruskar

**P**ANDIT Amir Chand Shastri was selected for the fourth *Vachaspati Puruskar*, instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation, for his work *Nehru Charit Mahakavyam*, depicting in poetry Nehru's life based on his autobiography.

### Vyas Samman

**N**OTED Hindi writer Kunwar Narain was awarded the *Vyas Samman* for 1995 for his compilation of poems entitled *Koi Doosra Nahin*.

### V. Shantaram State Award

**V**ETERAN actress Lalita Pawar has been selected for the V. Shantaram State Award for her lifetime contribution to Marathi films.

## INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

### Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, 1995

**G**ENERAL Olusegun Obasanjo, former Head of the State of Nigeria, has been selected for the Indira Gandhi International Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 1995, for his contribution to African democracy and for international peace.

### Indira Gandhi Award for International Justice and Harmony

**P**RESIDENT of South Africa, Dr Nelson Mandela, has been conferred the Indira Gandhi award for International Justice and Harmony. The award is instituted by the Indian Council of World Affairs.

### Magsaysay awards, 1995

*For Public service:* Ms Asma Jahangir, a Pakistani human rights lawyer for "challenging Pakistan to embrace and uphold the principles of religious tolerance, gen-



## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

der equality and equal protection under the law". Ms Jahangir is the founding secretary-general of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

*For government service:* Gov Morihiko Hiramalsiu of Japan's Oita province.

*For journalism, literature and creative communication arts:* Mr Pramodya Ananta Toes of Indonesia for 14 years of his politically-charged writing. The 70-year-old writer from Java was cited for illuminating with brilliant stories, the historical awakening and modern experience of the Indonesian people.

*For community service:* Ho Mong-Teh of Taiwan.

*For International Understanding* The Manila-based Asian Institute of Management, Asia's leading school for advanced management education, has been named winner of the 1995 Ramon Magsaysay award for international understanding

### Booker Prize

**NOVELIST** Pat Barker won the 1995 Booker Prize, Britain's most prestigious award, for her book *The Ghost Road*. The award consists of 20,000 pounds.

### Goldman environmental prizes

**SIX** environmental heroes from around the world, including Mahesh Chandra Mehta from India, are the recipients of the seventh annual Goldman environmental prizes. Mehta is a lawyer who has won about 40 landmark environmental judgements and numerous orders from the Supreme Court making him one of the most successful environmental litigator in the world.

The five other winners are A. Ndyakira of Uganda, Albena Simeonova of Bulgaria, W.J. Ballantine of New Zealand, Edwin Bustillos of Mexico and Marina Silva of Brazil.

### Jesse Owens Award

**SPRINTER** Michael Johnson won the highest honour of US athletics, the Jesse Owens award, for the second consecutive year.

### Kalinga Prize

**THE** Kalinga Prize for 1995 was awarded to Mexican astrophysicist Julieta Fieero Gossman for the popularisation of science. The award is

### Nobel Prizes 1995

*For Literature:* Irish poet Seamus Heaney.

*For Medicine:* Three scientists won the Nobel Prize for medicine: Edward Lewis of the California Institute of Technology; Christiane Nusslein-Volhard of the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tuebingen, Germany; and Eric F. Wieschaus of the Princeton University in the United States.

*For Economics:* American professor Robert E. Lucas of the University of Chicago for his work on how "Rational expectations have transformed macroeconomic analysis and helped understand economic policy".

*For Physics:* American professors Martin L. Perl of the Stanford University and Frederick Reines of the University of California.

*For Peace:* Anti-nuclear campaigner Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs which he chairs, shared the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. The award was given for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and to eliminate them in the long run.

*For Chemistry:* US scientists Sherwood Roland of University of California; Mario Molina of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Paul Crutzen of Germany's Max Planck Institute for Chemistry; for their discovery that man-made chemicals can damage the planet's protective ozone layer.

given each year by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and funded by former Orissa Chief Minister and industrialist Biju Patnaik

### Pulitzer prizes

*For international reporting:* David Rohde of the *Christian Science Monitor* for his reports on the massacre of thousands of Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica.

*For explanatory journalism:* Laurie Garrett of *Newsday* for explanatory journalism for her reporting from Zaire on the Ebola virus outbreak.

*General non-fiction award:* Tina Rosenberg of the World Policy Institute won the award for her book *The Haunted Land: Facing Europe's Ghosts After Communism*

*Spot news photography prize:* Charles Porter IV, a freelancer, for his photographs taken after the Oklahoma city bombing.

*Feature photography prize:* Stephanie Welsh, a freelancer, for a sequence of photos of a female circumcision rite in Kenya.

**Mahatma Gandhi World Peace award, 1995**

**DR** Hogen Fukunaga, a Japanese poet, lecturer and author of more than 70 books was given the award.

### Right Livelihood Award, 1995

**THE** 1995 Right Livelihood award, often called the alternative Nobel Prize, has been jointly awarded to the Serb Civic Council of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr Andras Biro and his organisation, the Hungarian Foundation for self-reliance, Mr Silak Sivaraksa of Thailand and Ms Cermel Budiardjo, co-founder of the Indonesian Human Rights organisation.

### UN Population Award, 1995

**MR** Halldan Mahler of Denmark shares the award with the inter-African committee on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children. Mr Mahler is head of the international planned parenthood federation.

### World Food Prize, 1995

**SWISS** entomologist Hans R. Herren won the World Food Prize for stopping the crop destroying pest in sub-Saharan Africa.

## FILM AWARDS

### National Film Awards

*Best feature film (Swarna Kamal):* Malayalam film *Kathapurushan* directed by Adoor Gopalakrishnan.

*Best film in Hindi: Bandit Queen.*

*Best English language film: The Making of the Mahatma.*



## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

**Nargis Dutt Award for National Integration:** *Bombay* directed by Mani Ratnam.

**Film giving popular and wholesome entertainment:** *Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge* directed by Aditya Chopra.

**Best non-feature film:** *Tarana*, a documentary film on mystic music directed by Rajat Kapoor.

**Best film on environment:** *Rape in the Virgin Forest* by Jwngdao Bodosa in Bodo.

**Indira Gandhi Award for best film of a director:** Malaya Bhattacharya's *Kahini* in Bengali.

**Best children's film:** *Halo* directed by Santosh Sivan.

**Best Actress:** Seema Biswas for her performance in *Bandit Queen*.

**Best Actor:** Rajit Kapoor for his performance in *The Making of the Mahatma*.

**Best Director:** Saeed Akhtar Mirza.

**Best supporting role:** Mithun Chakraborty for his role of Ramakrishna Paramhans in the first part of the film *Swami Vivekananda*, and Aranmula Ponnamm for *Kathapurushan*

**Special jury award:** Shyam Benegal, director of *The Making of the Mahatma*.

**Best playback singers:** S.P. Balasubramanyam and Anjali Marathe.

**Best costume design:** Dolly Ahluwalia in *Bandit Queen*.

**Best Book:** *Marathi Cinema* by Sanjit Narwekar.

**Oscar Awards, 1996**

**Best picture:** *Braveheart*.

**Best director:** Mel Gibson, *Braveheart*.

**Best actor:** Nicolas Cage, *Leaving Las Vegas*.

**Best actress:** Susan Sarandon, *Dead Man Walking*

**Best supporting actor:** Kevin Spacey, *The Usual Suspects*.

**Best supporting actress:** Mira Sorvino, *Mighty Aphrodite*.

**Best foreign language film:** *Antonia's Line* (The Netherlands).

**Filmfare Awards, 1996**

**Best film:** *Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge*

**Best actor:** Shahrukh Khan

**Best actress:** Kajol

**Best director:** Aditya Chopra (DDLJ)  
**Best music director:** A.R. Rahman (*Rangeela*)

**Best playback singer (male):** Udit Narayan (DDLJ)

**Best playback singer (female):** Kavita Krishnamoorthy (*Yarana*)

**Best villain:** Mithun Chakraborty (*Jallad*)

**Best comedian:** Anupam Kher (DDLJ)

**Lifetime achievement award:** Sunil Dutt, Ashok Kumar and Vijayanthimala  
**Dada Saheb Phalke award, 1994**

**L**EGENDRY film star Dilip Kumar, who strode the Hindi film world like a colossus for more than four decades, has been selected for the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award.

## BOOKS

### Alien Nation

**A**UTHORED by Mr Peter Brimelow, a senior editor with Forbes, the book says that the US government should stop further immigration into the US by non-whites, who are "destroying the American nation". Mr Brimelow warns fellow whites that the result of continued Asian, African and Latin American immigration at the current level will be "the snuffing out of the American nation—like a candle in a gale".

### Blood Sport

**W**RITTEN by James Stewart, it is an account of the Whitewater investments made by the Clintons. According to the book, Hillary Rodham Clinton played an active role in the Whitewater investment as a source for her daughter's education, even as her husband was agreeing to get out of the unsuccessful venture. According to the book, Mrs Clinton single handedly managed the investment after 1986.

### Call the Briefing

**W**RITTEN by the former US Press Secretary, Mr Martin Fitzwater, the book tells tales of aides of former US Presidents, Mr Ronald Reagan and Mr George Bush. It exposes infighting among White House Cabinet members.

### For the President's Eyes only

**A**UTHORED by Prof Christopher Andrew of Cambridge University, the

book claims the technical means, such as spy satellites, eavesdropping devices etc, available with USA give it the capacity to listen to the conversations of foreign leaders. The author claims that US spied on all foreign leaders, irrespective of which country they belonged to.

### Future of NPT, The

**T**HIS book has been written by Dr Savita Pande, a research officer with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (DSA), New Delhi. According to the book the five-member "nuclear club" is among the worst violators of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty even while preaching non-proliferation to the rest of the world. The book recommends that the "flawed" NPT should be dumped altogether.

### The Ghost Road

**W**RITTEN by Pat Barker, this book is the final part of the trilogy set in 1918 and tells the story of Lt Billy Prior at the end of World War I. The first book, which was part of this trilogy, was *Regeneration*, which appeared in 1991 and the second book was *The Eye in the Door*.

### In Confidence

**W**RITTEN by Anatoly Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador to the US for 20 years, it reveals that Soviet intervention helped prevent the 1971 Indo-Pakistan breaking up West Pakistan, thus averting the latter's total defeat.

### Lal Bahadur Shastri

**B**IOGRAPHY of India's Prime Minister by C.P. Srivastava, his closest and trusted aide. Gives an unpublished account of Shastri's conversations with Ayub Khan and Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin.

### The Making of a Cricketer

**O**FFICIAL biography of Sachin Tendulkar, written by his brother Ajit Tendulkar. Published by Ten Promotions, a company floated by Ajit, the book contains anecdotes from the Indian vice captain's life and contains several photographs.

### Mrityunjaya

**W**RITTEN by Marathi writer Shivaji Govindrao Sawant, the book is a contemporary classic which retells

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Mahabharata through the eyes of Karna. It has won the Moortidevi Award for 1994.

### The Moor's Last Sigh

**W**RITTEN by Salman Rushdie and set in Bombay, it is a sequel to *Midnight's Children*.

### Naari

**A** collection of essays written by Humayun Azad, the book has been banned by the Bangladesh government for containing views which hurt the religious sentiments and fundamental faith of the Muslims.

### Nivedyam (Offering)

**W**RITTEN by N. Balamani Amma, who has been selected for the Saraswati Samman for 1995, it is an anthology of 132 poems that reflect three main areas of her life; the role of woman, the state of society and the upward urge of the human spirit.

### North

**T**HIS book is a collection of poems written by the 1995 Nobel Prize for literature winner, Mr Seamus Heaney. In this book and in another, called *The Haw Lantern*, Heaney has spoken out as an Irish Catholic about violence in the British-ruled northern Island.

### Nurturing Development

**P**UBLISHED by the World Bank and written by Ismail Serageldin, its vice-president for environmentally sustainable development, it says that it is unrealistic for poor countries to aim at catching up with the affluent nations. According to Mr Serageldin, achieving per capita income levels of \$ 1500 to 2000 (lower middle income), coupled with sound social, economic and environmental policies within a reasonable time frame is a realistic objective.

### When Corporations Rule the World

**W**RITTEN by Harvard Business School professor David Corten, the book challenges mainstream economic thinking popularised by IMF and the World Bank. It says that the expanding power of multinational corporations is posing a threat to the ability of nations to protect their people and resources from uncon-

trolled exploitation.

## DAYS; YEARS

### Sports Day

**G**OVERNMENT of India declared August 29 as the Sports Day every year. August 29 is the birthday of late Major Dhyan Chand, the great hockey wizard. **International Day for preservation of the Ozone layer**

**T**HE UN General Assembly proclaimed September 16 as the International day for preservation of the ozone layer. September 16, 1995 also marked the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Vienna convention for the protection of the ozone layer.

### Vijay Diwas

**D**ECEMBER 16 was observed by the Armed forces as *Vijay Diwas* or a day of remembrance of all those soldiers, sailors and airmen who laid down their lives in defence of the nation.

### World Book Day

**U**NESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) decided to celebrate April 23 as World Book and Copyright Day.

## DEFENCE

### Nishant tested successfully

**N**ISHANT, a remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) meant for battle-field surveillance and reconnaissance, was successfully flight tested by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

*Nishant* incorporates advanced design features which are comparable or superior to similar vehicles developed elsewhere in the world. The system is capable of providing discrete aerial surveillance for extended durations by day and night, using sophisticated electro-optic and electronic sensors.

*Nishant* is the second Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) developed by ADE, the other being a Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) called *Lakshya*.

### Advanced light helicopter launched

**T**HE fourth and final prototype of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) was launched at Bangalore on January 22, 1996.

Designed and developed by the

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the helicopter incorporates state-of-the-art technology.

It has a maximum continuous speed of 290 km per hour, a range of 800 km and an endurance of four hours with a 20-minute reserve. The latest ALH has low noise and vibration levels and is designed to operate in very demanding conditions. **Navy's first sub passes into history**

**I**NDIAN Navy's first submarine, INS *Kalvari*, and the first indigenously built frigate, INS *Nilgiri*, passed into history and were decommissioned at Visakhapatnam and Bombay dockyards, respectively, on June 1, 1996.

During its service of 28 years, *Kalvari*, commissioned in Riga on December 8, 1967, accomplished many arduous tasks and trained young submariners.

*Nilgiri* was the first Indian-built major warship which could carry a helicopter and missiles and was commissioned on June 3, 1972. India took an epoch-making leap forward in the sophisticated art of modern warship production when *Nilgiri*, the first of the six leander class

### India Develops LCA

India's own Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) rolled out in Bangalore on November 18, 1995. It is the first project of its kind, and is a small, highly manoeuvrable, cost effective and multi-role aircraft. The first two prototypes are fitted with the US made General Electric engines but later the LCA would be fitted with the Indian made *Kaveri* engine.

The LCA is a single engine tailless aircraft which can carry external stores upto 4000 kg. Close combat and Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles, conventional bombs and electronic warfare and sensor pods are some of the characteristics that make it a formidable weapon platform.

The LCA integrates modern design concepts and state-of-the-art systems especially suited for Indian tropical conditions.

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frigates, was built by Mazagon Dock Ltd, Bombay.

### DISCOVERY

Undersea hot springs found near Andaman

INDIAN scientists have discovered a number of undersea hot springs that facilitate formation of minerals of valuable metals off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

These high temperature vents open on the seabed through which hydrothermal solutions as hot as 300 degrees Celsius are ejected into the seawater.

Though such hydrothermal mineral deposits have been reported from several locations in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, this is the first time scientists have obtained a strong evidence of existence in the Andaman sea.

### EXPEDITION

Everest Filming Expedition

JAMLING Norgay, grand son of the first Everest summiteer, Tenzing Norgay, scaled the world's highest peak, along with a film crew, on May 24, 1996. Thirty-one year old Jamling's was part of a seven-member Everest Imax filming expedition.

David Finlay Breashears, a 41-year old film maker and Edmund Karl Viesturs (37), from Seattle, both scaling the peak for the third time, were part of the Imax team.

#### All-women copter crew

Fl Cadet Chandra Bala and Fl Cadet Simran Singh took off in a helicopter for their maiden training sortie at Air Force Station, Secunderabad on December 7, 1995.

This was the first ever all-women helicopter flight in India in the subcontinent's aviation history, both military and civil.

The two Fl Cadets were part of the first batch of women helicopter pilots who received their wings at the conclusion of one and a half years training.

#### First SA team atop Mt Everest

THE South African flag was planted atop Mount Everest for the first time ever on May 26, 1996, when two Johannesburg climbers reached the summit of the world's highest mountain.

Two members of the team, leader Ian Woodall and Cathy O'Dowd, climbed the peak. Veteran Sherpa guide, Ang Rita, 48, of Nepal climbed the peak, along with them. All of them climbed without using oxygen cylinders.

#### Tragedy on Everest

ON the night of May 10, 1996 at the great mountain, Mt Everest (height 8,848 m), a sudden storm claimed lives of more than eight climbers, including two of the world's highly respected mountaineers: Scott Fisher of USA and Rob Hall of New Zealand. Three members of the Indo-Tibet Border Police expedition also died. The Indian climbers were: T. Palior, T. Samamla and Dorje Murup.

All together, more than 150 climbers in 13 expeditions had gathered at Base camps at the foot of Everest before the storm hit. They carried oxygen in titanium bottles, wore six layers of space-age thermal clothing designed to protect at temperatures lower than -30°C, hand-held radios, satellite phones and computers. The adventurers could even call home and send E-mail from the summit. However, despite all the technology and hi-tech the mountain proved to be more powerful.

There were miracles too: Beck Weathers of USA survived a night at the base of Mt Everest, so did Makalu Gau of Taiwan.

However, both were unable to descend through a treacherous ice fall, due to severe frostbite. In a daring mission, Lt Col K.C. Madan of Nepal Air Force rescued the two mountaineers in one of the highest helicopter rescues ever, from a height of 6,100 m.

### PERSONS

Amma, N. Balamani

MALAYALAM poetess N. Balamani Amma, who was awarded the Saraswati Samman for 1995, is credited with being a singer of the resplendent

#### Gowda, Haradanahalli Dodde Deve

Sworn in as India's 12th Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda was born into an agriculturalist family at Haradanahalli in Hassan district in Karnataka. He has a diploma in civil engineering and worked as a contractor before entering politics. He made it to the Legislative Assembly in 1962. Five more terms in the Assembly made him into a seasoned politician. Initially with the Congress, he went over to Congress (O) when the party split vertically. As an Opposition leader, he went to jail during the Emergency.

womanhood. Her poems are connected with all aspects of the subjects connected with women, her role at home, in society and in various facets of life.

Birla, Aditya Vikram

MR Aditya Birla, a scion of the Birla clan and heading an eight thousand crore industrial empire, died on October 1, 1995 at the age of 51.

Chandrasekhar, Dr Subrahmanyan

DR Chandrasekhar, Indian-born US scientist, whose ground-breaking theories on astrophysics won him the Nobel Prize in 1983, died on August 22, 1995, at the age of 84.

He studied the death throes of stars as their fuel is exhausted, calculating the Chandrasekhar limit (1.44 times the sun's mass), beyond which a collapsing star becomes a neutron star or continues to compress indefinitely.

Choudhury, Salil

THE World of Indian music lost one of its living legends in the death of Salil Choudhury on September 6, 1995. For over 50 years Salil Choudhury stardom in the Bengali and Hindi music scenes like a colossus, by virtue of his originality and constant experimentation in his lyrics as well as compositions.

Christiane, Nusslein-Volhard

GERMAN scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology in Tuebingen, Germany, he was in the news for being co-winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize

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for Medicine.

**Crutzen, Paul**

**G**ERMAN scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry. He is the co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

**Devi, Ashapurna**

**N**OTED Bengali litterateur, Ashapurna Devi died on July 13, 1995. She was the first woman to be awarded the prestigious Jnanpith award in 1976.

**Heaney, Seamus**

**I**RISH poet, Seamus Heaney, is the winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for literature. According to the citation his works had "lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past". He is a poet, essayist and translator.

**Inamdar, Shafi**

**S**HAFI Inamdar, who died in Mumbai at the age of 47, was a comedian, character actor, playwright, director and producer, all rolled in one. He had produced and directed many Gujarati plays. Though he later moved to films and television, theatre remained his first love.

**Kaka Hathrasi**

**T**HE famous Hindi poet of humour, Kaka Hathrasi, died on September 18, 1995. Incidentally September 18 was his birthday. He was 90.

Kaka, who wrote over 150 books of humour poetry, won much acclaim for his *Kaka Ke Kartoos* (Bullets of Kaka). He was honoured in 1985 with *Padamshree* award.

**Kumar, Dilip**

**L**EGENDRY film star, he has been honoured with the 1994 Dada Saheb

Phalke award. 72-year-old Dilip Kumar (real name Yousuf Khan) has held generations of Indian film audiences under his spell with sterling performances as a "tragedy king" and as in variety of other roles.

**Lewis, Edward**

**H**E is one of winners of the 1995 Nobel Prize for medicine. He belongs to the Institute of Technology, California, USA. The award has been given to him for his work on genetic mechanisms which control early embryonic development.

**Lucas, Robert**

**T**HE US economist, Mr Robert Lucas, has been awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize for economics for transforming understanding of how economic policy affects people's expectations.

**Mitterand, Francois**

**F**ORMER French President Francois Mitterand died in Paris at the age of 79. Known for his intelligence, memory, reserve and ferocious irony, he had authored several books, including *The Wheat and the Chaff* which outlined his political philosophy. He single-handedly built France's Socialist Party into a strong political force. He became President in 1981, defeating Giscard D'Estaing. Re-elected in 1988, he remained in office till May, 1995, to become the longest serving French President.

**Molina, Mario**

**U**S scientist belonging to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is one of the winners of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

**Perl, Martin L.**

**M**R Martin L. Perl of USA is the winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for physics for the discovery of a sub-atomic particle known as the Tan Lepton. He shared the award with co-American Frederick Reines.

**Preston, Lewis**

**L**EWIS Preston was the President of World Bank since 1991. He died on May 4, 1995 at the age of 68.

Mr Preston was responsible for making poverty alleviation as the over-arching goal of the Bank and redirected the

**Sangma, Purno A.**

**S**peaker of the 11th Lok Sabha, P.A. Sangma is a Christian tribal from the Garo hills of Meghalaya. He rose from a secretary of the Meghalaya Pradesh Youth Congress to become the consensus candidate for the post of Speaker, in a little over 20 years. Sangma, 48, was a lecturer, lawyer and journalist before joining politics. He first came to Parliament in 1977 and has been elected for the fifth time.

He is the first tribal and the youngest to be elevated to become the Speaker. He has held several posts, including Labour Minister and Information and Broadcasting Minister.

Bank group lending towards human resources development. He was also instrumental in linking the World Bank lending to actual performance and implementation of projects.

**Rabin, Yitzhak**

**Y**ITZHAK Rabin, the 73-year-old Prime Minister of Israel, hailed for his moves towards peace with the Arabs, was assassinated by a young Jewish law student on November 5, 1995, at a rally in Tel Aviv. He was the first Israeli Prime Minister to be assassinated since the creation of the country in 1948.

**Rao, Nandamuri Taraka Rama**

**A**CTOR turned leader N.T. Rama Rao, or 'NTR' as he was popularly known, died on January 18, 1996.

Born in a remote Nimmakuru village of Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, Rama Rao joined filmdom with *Na Desam* (My Country) and stormed into politics with the slogan *Na Prajalu* (My People). He floated the Telegu Desam Party (TDP) in 1982 when he was 60 and always had a finger on the pulse of the people. He featured in 330 Telegu films and enacted mostly mythological roles.

**Reines, Frederick**

**F**REDERICK Reines of the University of California shares the 1995 Nobel Prize for physics for the detection of the neutrino—a work that he started in 1950s.

**Nair, M.T. Vasudevan**

Noted Malayalam writer and editor of *Mathirabhooni* group of publications, Mr Nair has been selected for the 31st Jnanpith award for 1995 for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian literature.

Mr Nair, 61, has written many literary works including eight novels and screen plays for over a dozen movies.

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**Rotblat, Joseph**

**A**NTI-nuclear campaigner, Polish-born British scientist, Joseph Rotblat has won the 1995 Nobel Peace prize. He shared the award with the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, which he chairs.

The Pugwash Conference was started in 1955 by Rotblat and ten other scientists—10 years after the dropping of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki—to recognise the responsibility of scientists for their inventions.

**Rowland, Sherwood**

**U**S Scientist belonging to the University of California. He was in the news for winning the 1995 Nobel Prize for Chemistry alongwith two other scientists.

**Sareen, Air Marshal Satish Kumar**

**V**ICE-Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Satish Kumar Sareen, was appointed the next Chief of Air Staff.

Air Marshal Sareen was commissioned as a fighter pilot on May 29, 1957 and has the unique distinction of heading the two most operational commands as well as the office of the Vice-Chief of Air Staff. He was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the New Delhi-based Western Air Command (WAC). Before that he headed the Jodhpur-based South Western Air Command.

**Sawant, Shivaji Govindrao**

**N**OTED Marathi writer and novelist, Shivaji Govindrao Sawant is the winner of Moortidevi Award for 1994 for his book, *Mrityunjaya*.

**Singh, Beant**

**B**EANT Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab, the man credited with wiping out militancy from Punjab, was assassinated on August 31, 1995 in a bomb blast in Chandigarh.

He was born on February 19, 1922 in village Bilaspur of Ludhiana district in Punjab. He graduated from the prestigious Government College, Lahore. He had a two-year stint in the army before jumping into the political arena in 1950. In February 1992 he took over as the 13th Chief Minister of Punjab.

**Slack, Sally (Kamala)**

**B**ORN on December 20, 1945, Sally Slack, who is also known as Kamala, decided to devote herself to Gandhism and promote Gandhian values in the US. She has been awarded the Jannalal Bajaj award. At present she is the president of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Foundation and director of Gandhi Memorial Centre in Washington.

**Suu Kyi, Mrs Aung San**

**M**RS Aung San Suu Kyi is the pro-democracy leader of Myanmar. She has been under house arrest for the past six years. She has been awarded the coveted Jawahar Lal Nehru award for international understanding, 1993. She is the 29th recipient of the award.

**Tulsamma**

**A** wealthy landowner who gave up her riches to use her life to help the poor, Tulsamma, 85, lives as a legend in Pedaravur in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Born in 1911, Tulsamma met Gandhiji in Sevagram Ashram and decided to live a life of austerity. Her later meeting with Vinoba Bhave made her determined to devote her life in helping the poor.

She became a freedom fighter and participated in the non-cooperation movement. Later, she donated her huge property to the Andhra Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board. Her former house is today a khadi production centre.

**Wieschaus, Eric F.**

**A** professor at the Princeton University, USA, he shares the 1995 Nobel Prize for medicine for his work on genetic mechanisms.

**Wolfensohn, James D.**

**6**1-year-old James D. Wolfensohn has taken over as the President of the World Bank. He is a born Australian but is now a naturalised American citizen with his own New York-based investment bank. He is known as a man of strong will, impeccable taste and keen mind.

### PLACES

**Palau**

**P**ALAU, till recently a trust territory administered by the United States, has

**Valpayee, Atal Behari**

The country's 11th Prime Minister who stayed in office for only 12 days; Valpayee is known for his liberal views. Born in Gwalior in 1924, he became a social worker in 1948. Arrested in 1942 during the freedom struggle, he continued as an RSS worker after his release. The 72-year old bachelor is one of the few political leaders who is not under dark clouds tarnishing his image.

become the 185th member of the United Nations.

Palau has a population of slightly over 15,000 and comprises of 200 islands in the Caroline chain in the Pacific, of which only eight are permanently inhabited. Most of the population lives in the capital of Koror.

**Maharashtra**

**M**AHARASHTRA has completed 35 years of progressive existence. Over the years, it has graduated as one of the most industrialised States in India, fulfilling the aims of those who laid down their lives for its formation.

The bilingual State of Bombay, comprising present day Maharashtra and Gujarat, was formed on November 1, 1956 on the recommendations of the Fazal Ali Commission report, with Bombay as its capital and Morarji Desai as its Chief Minister.

The State, which has a rich historical and cultural heritage, a stable and strong political base and an efficient government machinery, continues to occupy a prominent position in various fields. It is also progressive as regards social reforms and cosmopolitan character.

**Ralegan Siddhi**

**O**NCE a village with acute water shortage today it is a model for not only Maharashtra but the whole country, with enough water for drinking and irrigation, enough foodgrains, reasonably good horticulture and greenery all around.

It has given a lead to other villages in watershed development, soil conservation and afforestation, and all without any monetary help from the government or

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any other agency.

What started as a small step became a movement with the whole village rallying behind Hajare, better known as Annasaheb Hajare. And the fruits have reached all households.

**Singapore: S.E. Asia's first developed economy**

**S**INGAPORE graduated to the status of South-East Asia's first developed economy, a tremendous achievement for a nation that won full independence only 30 years ago.

Five other nations also move into that grade: Brunei and the Gulf nations of Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, apart from the Bahamas.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) took the decision to promote Singapore to that status on the basis of its huge income levels—per capita income has crossed \$23,000.

**Vijayanagar**  
**P**ERCHED at an altitude of 1260 metres above sea level, the 500 sq km table-like land of Vijayanagar in Chamlang district of Arunachal Pradesh has become a dreamland. Deposits of gold, gas, oil, platinum, semi-precious stones and jade have been reported by the Geological Survey of India.

Once dubbed as "forgotten land" it is now humming with activity with the State government's Mineral Trade Corporation Limited, the Oil India Limited and Coal India Limited putting up camps.

**Wayanad**  
**W**AYANAD is an underdeveloped district of Kerala, situated on the western side of the Sahya mountains bordering Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. About 35 per cent of Kerala's scheduled tribes live in this place.

There is evidence that organised human life existed at Wayanad at least 10 centuries before Christ, especially at the Edakkal caves.

### PROJECTS

**NTPC plans to increase electricity generation**

**T**HE National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has drawn up an ambi-

### 1000 years of Tabo monastery

A tiny hamlet situated at 3280 metres above sea level, in the far away Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh, witnessed the celebrations to mark the one-thousandth year of the existence of the Tabo Monastery.

Better known as the Ajanta of the Himalayas, the monastery derives its name from that of the hamlet, Tabo. The two-week millennium year celebrations of the monastery, which was founded in 996 AD, began on June 20 till July 5.

The Tabo Monastery is the only surviving monument representing the tradition of the old Gugga Kingdom which was known in its time for its zeal for adopting Buddhism.

The richly executed paintings and the stucco images inside the mudwalled constructions of the monastery make it not only a site of rich artistic grandeur but also of archaeological importance. Some of the murals of the monastery are as old as the monastery itself. However, conservative estimates put the paintings at over 500 years old. The monastery is in itself a great repository representing the Himalayan Buddhism.

The monastery is believed to have been founded by a Buddhist scholar from Western Tibet, Rin-Chen-Sangpo.

tious plan to add 10,000 megawatt of generation by the year 2003 AD.

Eleven thermal and five gas-based power projects were generating 16085 megawatt at present, contributing almost 22 per cent of the total power generation in the country and was lighting one-fifth of the nation.

NTPC had a modest generation of 1120 million units during 1982-83 and touched a record of 78383 million units during 1994-95. NTPC controlled power stations had also maintained a plant load factor which was higher than the national level. During 1994-95, the average plant load factor of NTPC's stations was 76.57 per cent against the national average of 60 per cent.

**200 MW solar power plant for Jaisalmer**  
**T**HE Rajasthan Government has entered into an agreement with Energen International Ltd to set up a solar thermal power project in Jaisalmer to generate 200 MW of power.

The company, a consortium of Sri Lanka and Germany based two companies, with Larsen and Tubro as its Indian partner, will sell entire power produced by the plant to Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB), at a rate of Rs 2.25 per unit during the next 25 years.

### Mughal Road to be revived

**F**OLLOWING improvement in the overall situation in strife-torn Kashmir Valley, work will start soon on the famous Mughal Road project as an alternative highway between Jammu and Kashmir.

The project, which was shelved in 1990 in view of increased militancy in the Valley, will be completed in four to five years.

The road, which would be about 441 km long, originates from Pathankot and reaches Srinagar via Akhnour, Pir Ki Gali and Shopian.

### New radiation source being built

**I**NDIA joins a select band of nations which have the capability to build large synchrotron radiation source, one of the most sophisticated scientific tools. The Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT) at Indore is currently commissioning a large 450 MEV (Million Electron Volts) synchrotron radiation source and has also started work on a larger 2 GEV (Giga Electron Volts) synchrotron radiation source.

Besides Japan, India is the only Asian country which has embarked on such a programme.

### Tuticorin to be a 'hub port'

**T**UTICORIN in Tamil Nadu, a strategically located port on the eastern coast, very near to the international sea route,



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will soon be developed into a 'hub port' with a total investment of Rs 4,000 crore entirely from the private sector.

Once it is developed in another five years' time, almost the entire Indian cargo would be handled through this port. At present 87 per cent of the Indian cargo goes to Dubai, Colombo and Singapore and only 13 per cent of it is being directly handled by major ports in the country.

Global tenders had been invited and five parties have responded. An estimated Rs 4,000 crore including some Rs 2,000 crore for equipment would come from private companies for developing the outer harbour project.

### European project to have Indian superconductors

INDIA will supply superconducting magnets for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) being built by the European Council for Nuclear Research (ECNR) at Geneva.

Indian scientists will also develop software to control the super proton synchrotron which injects protons into the LHC, with the aim of probing the ultimate structure of matter.

Involvement in the project will give Indian scientists an opportunity to develop frontline technologies for the world's most prestigious international project to make highly energised proton beams collide head-on.

India has offered to participate in the construction of the LHC by contributing \$ 25 million worth of material, including 12,000 super conducting sextupole corrector magnets. Simultaneously, In-

dian scientists are proposing to participate in the construction of two detectors of LHC.

### First power plant from vegetable wastes

INDIA'S first power plant to generate power exclusively from vegetable waste is to be located at Madras. The power plant forms part of a UNDP-assisted programme of the Union Ministry of Non-conventional Energy.

The Rs 2.85 crore project will use the vegetable waste from the massive vegetable wholesale complex that has been designed by the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) at Koyambedu. It has been designed to consume around 30 tonnes of vegetable waste per day, against the 80 tonnes per day waste that the Koyambedu complex is expected to generate.

## RESEARCH

### World's maiden keyhole heart surgery

HEART surgery through a keyhole was realised for the first time in world at B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre (BMBRC) in Calcutta on December 30, 1995.

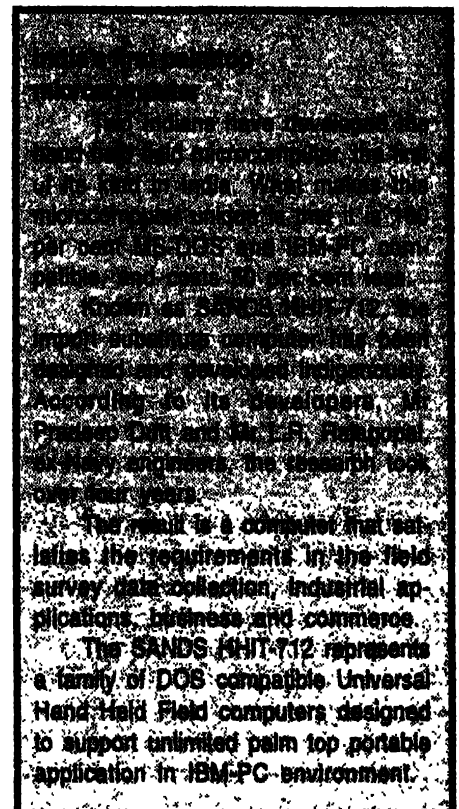
A hole in the heart of a Bangladesh student was closed by video-assisted technique in which a microchip camera and precision instruments were employed by Dr Devi Shetty and his 11-member team.

A small incision was made on the right side of the chest and a three-chip camera was inserted inside the chest cavity to visualise the heart. This gave a magnified image of the heart on the TV screen which was mounted in front of the patient. The surgeons, while looking at the TV screen, inserted the instruments through the small incision. The actual operation was then undertaken.

The main advantage of the technique was that it involved just one cut on the heart instead of four to five as in traditional methods.

### Chola capital existed: Study

IT is no longer a myth that the coastal town of Poompuhar, also called Kaveripattinam, in southern Tamil Nadu, was the capital of early Cholas. The ar-



chaeologists have now found evidence of the existence of this ancient city.

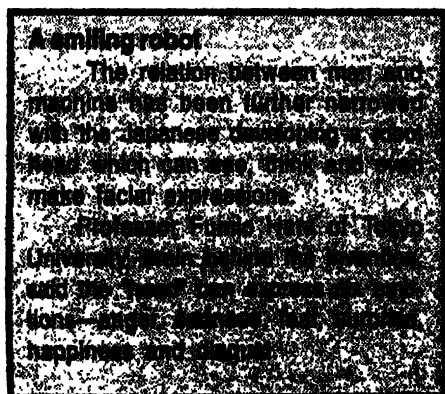
Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department, engaged in related explorations for over 30 years, has unearthed six trenches with structures of Sangam age, firmly established it as the same lost city, described as the pride of Chola dynasty.

### Purple bananas

PURPLE bananas, blue apples and yellow tomatoes may soon become quite common. This has become possible with the discovery of genes that control the smell, taste and colour of the fruits.

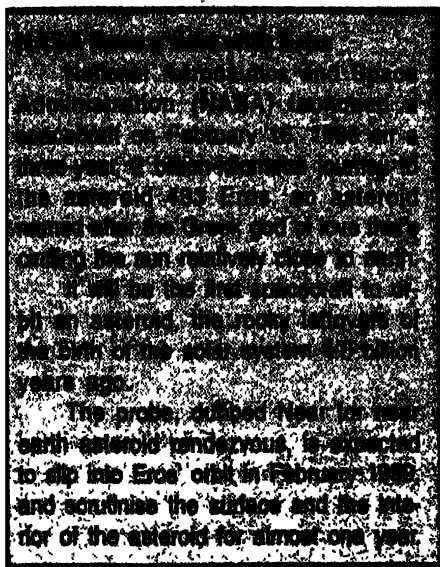
Different coloured skins could be used to show buyers that fruit had been genetically engineered to contain extra vitamins, medicines or nutrients.

Research at Nottingham University, where Dr Don Grierson, professor of plant physiology, and his team have identified 25 genes that control different aspects of fruit ripening, including colour and texture, has opened new possibilities in fruit farming that range from medicine to economics. Limiting the gene's ability to make





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the hormones could help overcome the problem that rots half the world's produced food before it reaches the market.

### SPACE

#### IRS-1C launched

**T**HE world's most advanced remote sensing satellite, IRS-1C, built by Indian Scientists, was put into orbit successfully by a Russian rocket on December 28, 1995.

The key equipment on board is the panchromatic camera (PAN), which will provide pictures of the earth with a resolution of 6 metres, the highest available in the world market today. Besides the panchromatic camera, IRS-1C carries two other sensors to provide visual imageries in a wide band of spectra. These are the Linear Imaging Self-scanning Sensor (LISS-3) and the Wide Field Sensors (WIFS).

The data receiving station of the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), at Shadnagar near Hyderabad, will distribute the satellite data to the users and the ground stations of the US company Eosat, who will receive IRS-1C data under a commercial agreement between Eosat and the Antrix Corporation of the Indian Department of Space.

#### INSAT-2C launched

**I**NDIA'S third indigenous satellite, INSAT-2C, was launched from South

American sea port of Kourou, by the European rocket vehicle Ariane, on December 7, 1996.

Improved telecommunications, wider television coverage, introduction of mobile satellite service and business net-working in major Indian cities will become possible with this satellite.

There are several firsts to the credit of INSAT-2C. It is the first Indian satellite to be co-located with another Indian spacecraft, INSAT-2B, in the same geo-stationary orbit, separated only by a minimum distance of 17 km in space. It carries India's first KU band transponders exclusively for telecommunications.

The satellite helped to introduce Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) that enables communications between any two moving persons on land, sea or in air.

#### IRS-P3 is put into orbit

**T**HE third developmental flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-D3) was successfully launched from Sriharikota, on March 11, 1996. It placed a 930 kg Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-P3, into a near-polar sun-synchronous orbit.

The launch opened up the possibility to tap a lucrative international market for satellite launch and sale of remote sensing data.

#### Galileo reaches Jupiter

**O**N December 8, 1995, spacecraft Galileo reached Jupiter after six years and a 3.7 billion km journey.

Galileo's close encounter with the largest planet is the culmination of a nearly 20-year programme, aimed at learning about the gigantic Jovian system, which could reveal important clues about evolution of the solar system.

#### Brightest comet sighted

**T**WO amateur US astronomers have discovered what could be the brightest comet to pass earth in twenty years. Experts have described the finding as the most distant comet ever discovered by amateurs.

The comet has been dubbed as Hale-Bopp, after its finders Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp. It is expected to be visible to the naked eye when it passes earth, in late

December, 1996, about 120 million km away.

#### Comet Hyakutake sighted

**C**OMET Hyakutake hove into bright unaided view on March 26, 1996.

Hyakutake came closest to the earth (15 million kms) and remained brightly visible for a few days as it hurtled in a trajectory around the sun.

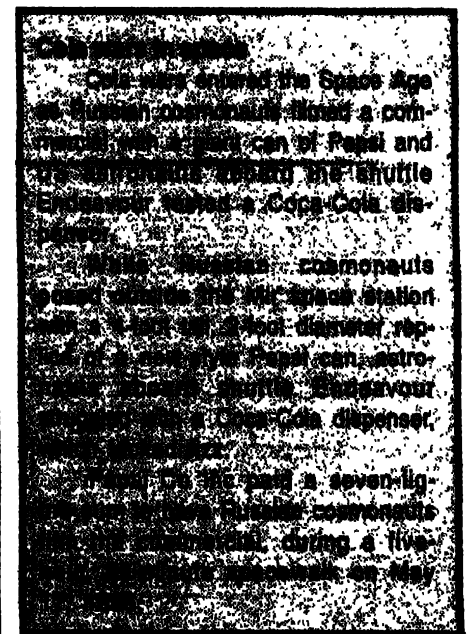
Hyakutake will never quite get to the sun but after getting as close as 34 million kms it will hurtle into a wide orbit never to return for another 10,000 years.

Named after the Japanese amateur who spotted it with a pair of binoculars in January, Hyakutake is the third in a series appearing on the firmament in 10-year intervals, following comet West in 1976 and comet Halley in 1986.

#### Mir's 10 years in space

**T**EN years and 2.5 billion km (1.5 billion miles) on, the Mir space station has outlived the Soviet Union that launched it, completing its first decade in orbit by toasting new financing from the West.

Its name means "peace", but it was the cold war that gave it birth. Now, with post-communist Russia in economic crises, it is money from Moscow's erstwhile



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adversary, the United States, that helps to keep the 120-tonne jumble of floating metal in service

### Atlantis docks with Mir

**S**PACE shuttle Atlantis successfully docked with the Russian space station Mir, on March 24, 1996, the third docking of the shuttle programme. Shuttle commander Kevin Chilton linked the two spacecraft carefully edging the shuttle to the Mir at one foot per second. The shuttle did not deviate from its schedule as it approached Mir. It stopped, as planned, 170 feet below Mir for 10 minutes, then at 30 feet before making the final approach.

### UN

S. Korea, Egypt elected to UN Council

**S**OUTH Korea, Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau and Poland were elected as non-permanent members of the UN and begin their two-year term on January 1, 1996. They replace Oman, Rwanda, Argentina, the Czech Republic and Nigeria.

### MISCELLANY

#### Indian cities face explosion

**F**OUR Indian cities—Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Hyderabad—will be among the megacities that will mushroom in an unprecedented urban explo-

sion in the developing world, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP) has predicted.

Within 10 years, more than half the people in the world will live in cities and nearly all the urban population increase will be in developing countries.

The urban future carries with it many risks, such as the possibility of collapse of basic services, intolerable environmental degradation and escalating social conflict.

The growth rate of 'megacities' is changing. While megacities in the developed world grew, on an average, by less than one per cent, those in the developing world, including Bombay, Karachi, Lagos and Dhaka, grew by 3.7 to 7.6 per cent.

Developing countries will account for nearly 93 per cent of a 2.06 billion increase in the global urban population from 1970 to 2020. Much of this growth will be in the world's poorest countries, and many of the new urban dwellers, particularly women and children, will be among the poorest people in the world.

Compared to 1950 when there were 83 cities with populations of more than a million, today there are more than 280 and the number is expected to double by 2015.

#### Dudhwa rhino project a success

**T**HE rhino reintroduction project started at the Dudhwa national park in Uttar Pradesh a decade ago has largely been a success despite a few setbacks. The rhinos at Dudhwa seem to have settled down well into their new home.

The one-horned rhinoceros was put on the list of endangered animals of IUCN and on schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. Dudhwa national park was chosen for the country's most ambitious reintroduction project. An area of 90 sq km in south Sonarpur and Bellaraem range of the Dudhwa national park was identified as a most suitable area for the rhinos.

#### Cybermoney: Friend or Foe

**I**S Cybermoney a useful way of paying for goods on the Internet or a Trojan horse

**Cyber-Doll coming on December 31, 1999**

Many of the powerful computers running today could go haywire on December 31, 1999. Their clock will show 01/01/00 which will be interpreted by computers as January 1, 1900, instead of the year 2000. This could make it impossible to calculate interest, pensions, insurance policies or inventories. Analysts predict reprogramming will cost \$100 billion to \$600 billion for global industry and governments, over the next four years.

Many operations run by big computers must undergo months of complex reprogramming by 1998 or sooner to ensure the systems function correctly by 2000.

harbouring forces that will distort money supply, debase currencies and set off inflation?

For the Dutch pioneers in the electronic cash revolution, the prospect of paying cash over the Internet is no more frightening than using a credit card.

In fact, digital cash could be safer because breaking the codes destined to protect cybermoney would take years of work with very little return.

Cybermoney is real money moved from real bank accounts onto the Internet in a form protected by sophisticated codes to parties who then deposit it with their own banks in exchange for goods or services offered on the Internet.

#### New standard for software industry

**A** new international standard, SPICE (International Standard for Software Process Assessment), for process assessment in the software industry is currently under trials.

A product of the International Standards Committee for Software Engineering, it has been designed to evaluate processes relating to the development, maintenance and acquisition of software.

#### Shopping through the computer

Computer shopping is becoming a fact of life and will start to threaten conventional shopping malls by the end of the century.

New 'virtual' malls are creating shopping facilities including services such as travel, banking, bookshops, wine, and flowers.

On-line newspapers and financial services are offered, as well as one which takes orders for groceries on-line and delivers them.

Retailers will be able to offer huge amounts of goods and bargains round the clock, without the expenses of property or staff. Stocks will be zero as goods are ordered direct from the manufacture.

# Round-up of Sports

## GAMES

**Seventh South Asian Federation Games**  
THE South Asian Federation (SAF) Games were declared open in Madras on December 18, 1995. The teams were led by the mascot 'Leo' and India's P.T. Usha, who was also captain of India's contingent. India won 106 gold medals out of 143, making it an Indian show. Sri Lanka with 16 golds, was only a distant second. Susanthika Jayasinghe and Shiny Abraham were jointly declared the best athletes of the games.

	Medals tally		
	Gold	Silver	Bronze
India	106	60	19
Sri Lanka	16	25	53
Pakistan	10	33	36
Bangladesh	7	17	35
Nepal	4	8	16
Bhutan	0	0	2
Maldives	0	0	1

## ARCHERY

**FITA National Archery Championship**  
LIMBA Ram of Rajasthan and Purnima Mahato of Bihar emerged champions in the men and women's sections respectively in the 17th senior FITA National Archery Championship held at Cuttack.

Gangadhar Madhi of Orissa and Bahasoren of Bihar were declared overall champions in the third senior (Indian round) national archery meet. Bihar's teams won the team championship title in the FITA round while Orissa set a new record winning the Indian round men's team championship.

## ATHLETICS

### World Championships

THE World Athletic Championships began on August 4, 1995 at Gothenburg, Sweden. USA topped the medals tally with 12 Gold, 2 Silver and 5 Bronze medals. They were followed by Belarus with 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze medals and

Italy with 2 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

Canada's Donovan Bailey, the fastest man in the world in 1995, raced to the 100 metres title in 9.97 seconds. Gwen Torrence of USA won the women's 100 metres title with a timing of 10.85 seconds.

Dan O'Brien of USA won the decathlon title for the third time in a row. He became the fifth athlete to win three world crowns in a row.

Michael Johnson of USA became the first person to complete the 200 and 400 metres double in a global competition. He took his third gold medal in 4 x 400 m relay race.

Sergei Bubka of Ukraine won his fifth world championship pole vault title.

India was represented by a three-member team comprising of middle distance champion Jyotimoyee Sikdar, sprinter Solaimathi and discus thrower Ajit Bahaduria. The performance was pathetic.

### Pune International Marathon

JOSEPH Kahugu, a Kenyan athlete, won the Pune International Marathon. Peter de Vocht of Belgium and Giridharilal of Services repeated last year's performance for second and third places.

In the women's half marathon section, Leelamma of Western Railways came first followed by Grace Chebet of Kenya and Usha Verma of Railways.

## BADMINTON

### Uber-Cup

INDONESIA retained the Uber Cup women's world team badminton championship title, beating China 3-1. Indonesia took the Cup for a record sixth time and it was their second straight win over China.

### Thomas Cup

WORLD champion Hervanto Arbi of Indonesia beat Denmark's Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen to give his country a 3-0 lead in the final of the Thomas Cup men's team

badminton championship played at Hong Kong.

### National Championship

HOLDERS of the men and women's titles Dipankar Bhattacharya and P.V. Laxmi retained the Bristol National Badminton Championship played at Bharuch. They beat rivals Gopi Chand and Aparna Popat respectively in close matches to retain their titles.

## BASKETBALL

### National Championship

PUNJAB beat Bihar 76-60 to retain the 46th National Basketball Championship held at Jamshedpur

The Railways women won their eighth consecutive title, beating Maharashtra.

## BILLIARDS

### Gold Flake World Professional Championship

GEET Sethi won the Rs 17.5 lakh championship for the third time in four years when he vanquished his Indian rival Devendra Joshi. The championship was held in Bombay.

### Women's National title

KAMALA Chandra Babu of Tamil Nadu defeated Judy Walia, also of Tamil Nadu, to regain the National title which she had first won in 1991 at Jamshedpur. The championship was held at Bangalore.

## BOXING

### World Heavyweight Championship

MIKE Tyson beat UK's Frank Bruno in the third round of the World Boxing Council heavyweight championship held in Las Vegas.

## CHESS

### PCA World Championship

WORLD Chess Champion Garry Kasparov drew the 18th game of his championship match against Viswanathan Anand of India, in only 12 moves, to win the month-

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

long contest, 10.5-7.5 and the \$ 900,000 first prize. Anand received \$ 4,50,000.

The championship was sponsored by the Professional Chess Association and was held in New York, USA.

### Kasparov vs Computer

GARRY Kasparov triumphed over the IBM supercomputer Deep Blue in the six-game match played at Philadelphia. He beat the machine four points to two after three wins, two draws and one win for the computer.

Deep Blue can sift through 200 million possible chess manoeuvres per second. It made history by becoming the first computer program to beat a reigning world champion in classical chess.

### Women's Champion

HUNGARIAN Zsuzsa Polgar beat Chinese teenager Xie Jun to become the new women's world chess champion. Polgar won by 8.5 points to 4.5 after 13 games played in Spain.

### National Women's Championship

TWENTY-two year old Mrinalini Kunte of Pune emerged the new national women's champion defeating Anupama Gokhale in the 11th round of the XXII Women's National 'A' chess championship organised by the Golden Square Women's Association in Salem.

## CRICKET

### Wills World Cup

SRI Lanka emerged the winners of 1996 World Cup when they defeated Australia by 7 wickets in the final played at Lahore.

It became the first host country and the first one to win the World Cup batting second. Aravinda de Silva became the first batsman to score a century in a World Cup final since 1979.

India's Sachin Tendulkar was the most successful batsman notching up a total of 523 runs. Among the bowlers, the most successful was Anil Kumble who took 15 wickets conceding 281 runs; an average of 18.73.

### Highlights

**Highest score:** Sri Lanka scored 398 for 5 against Kenya, beating the previous record of 360 for 4 by West Indies against Sri Lanka in 1987.

**Highest individual innings:** Gary Kristen of South Africa, with 188 not out against UAE.

**Highest partnership:** Mark Waugh and Steve Waugh (207) for the third wicket against Kenya.

**Highest half century:** Arjun Ranatunga of Sri Lanka, who scored 50 in 29 balls against Kenya.

### Singer Cup

DESPITE Sanath Jayasuriya's slambag half century, the fastest ever in one-day cricket, Sri Lanka lost the final of the Singer Cup to Pakistan by 43 runs. The three-nation tournament, with India being the third country, was played in Singapore.

### Pepsi Cup

SOUTH Africa beat India by 38 runs to win the Pepsi Cup cricket tournament at Sharjah. India scored 249 for 9 in reply to South Africa's 287 for 5. Pakistan was the third participating country.

### Cricketer of the year

INDIA'S vice captain Sachin Tendulkar was declared the Sun Grace-Mafatlal's cricketer of the year for the 1995-96 season. This was the third time that he won the award.

### Ranji Trophy

KARNATAKA were crowned Ranji Champions after a gap of 13 years, defeating Tamil Nadu, which had earlier defeated Bombay and Delhi. The match was played in Madras and Karnataka's team was captained by Anil Kumble.

### Irani Trophy

RANJI Champions Bombay thrashed Rest of India by nine wickets to claim the Irani Trophy.

### Vizzy Trophy

WEST Zone won the Vizzy Trophy

with a 10-wicket victory over North Zone in the final played at Bangalore.

### Deodhar Trophy

NORTH Zone crushed West Zone by 81 runs to win the Deodhar Trophy match played at Indore.

## FOOTBALL

### Beighton Cup

BORDER Security Force, Jalandhar, edged out Tamil Nadu XI by one goal to regain the Beighton Cup after a gap of 24 years at the Mohun Bagan ground in Calcutta.

### DCM Trophy

THE DCM football trophy was won by the Tractor Sazi Club of Iran with a 3-0 win over Punjab State Electricity Board played at New Delhi.

### Federation Cup

HOLDERS JCT Mills beat East Bengal 5-3 in the 20th Lifebuoy Federation Cup football tournament held in Kanpur.

### Durand Cup

EAST Bengal won the prestigious Durand Cup football tournament 4-3 against the Tata Football Academy played at New Delhi.

### European Cup

JUVENTUS won the European Soccer Cup when they beat holders Ajax Amsterdam 4-2 in a penalty shootout in Rome.

### Santosh Trophy

TRIGGERED by the brilliance of Bhaichung Bhutia, Bengal beat Goa 2-0 in the 52nd Bharat Petroleum National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy held at Margao.

### Shastri Cup

CALCUTTA'S Steel Authority of India Limited won the All-India Lal Bahadur Shastri football tournament with a 2-0 victory over Youngmen. The tournament was held in New Delhi.

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

### Women's World Cup

NORWAY continued its domination of the women's world cup soccer by winning the 1995 World Cup. They defeated Denmark 3-1 in the final. USA was third.

### GYMNASTICS

#### World Championship

ROMANIA eclipsed China and USA to retain the women's team title. They totalled 387.865 points to China's 386.476.

The men's team title was taken by China. Japan came second—their first men's team title since 1983.

### HOCKEY

#### Champions trophy

GERMANY lifted the champions trophy by defeating Australia 4-2 in the penalty shoot-out in the 17th edition of the hockey tournament.

India could manage only fifth position among the six participating nations.

The tournament was held in Berlin, Germany. The next tournament will be held in Madras, India.

#### European Nations Cup

OLYMPIC Champions Germany retained the Cup when they defeated the Netherlands on penalties in the final.

#### Lal Bahadur Shastri Tournament

CENTRAL Reserve Police Force beat Border Security Force 4-1 to claim the title in the sixth All India Lal Bahadur Shastri tournament played at New Delhi.

#### Indira Gandhi Gold Cup

SOUTH Korea beat India 3-2 to retain the ninth Indira Gandhi Gold Cup International hockey tournament played at Lucknow. Australia claimed the third place with a 5-1 win over the USA.

#### Shivaji Hockey Title

BORDER Security Force (BSF) beat Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 4-2 to win the Shivaji Hockey Gold Cup held in New Delhi.

#### Dhyan Chand Cup

BORDER Security Force (BSF) won the tie-breaker against CRPF 4-2 to lift the Dhyan

Chand Cup for the second Chatrapati Shivaji hockey tournament held at New Delhi.

#### Obaidullah Gold Cup

RAILWAY Coach Factory, Kapurthala defeated defending champions Punjab Police, 1-0, to lift the prestigious trophy.

#### Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

INDIA beat Germany 7-6 to regain the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. The six-nation tournament was held in Malaysia.

India had earlier won the Cup in 1985 and 1991.

#### Surjit Trophy

PUNJAB Police won the Surjit Trophy at the All India Surjit Memorial Hockey Championship held at Jalandhar. They beat Air India 1-0 to lift the trophy.

### POLO

#### World Championship

BRAZIL beat the reigning champions Argentina in the final of the fourth Polo world championship in the Swiss resort of St Moritz. India bagged the fifth place.

### SHOOTING

#### National Championships

INDIA'S Mansher Singh bagged the gold in the International Rules Men's trap finals at Madras scoring 142 points out of a possible 150, in the 39th National Shooting Championships in trap and skeet. Delhi lifted the team gold. Rao Inderjeet Singh won the skeet finals with Delhi again winning the team gold.

#### Commonwealth Championship

INDIA emerged champions with a tally of 12 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals in the Commonwealth Shooting Championships. Jaspal Rana won 8 golds. Fateh Singh bagged 3 golds and a silver while Ashok Pandit got two golds and a silver and Sukhdev Singh got 2 golds.

### SNOOKER

#### World Championship

STEPHEN Hendry won his sixth world

championship with an 18-12 victory over Peter Ebdon. It was his fifth title in a row.

#### Senior National Title

TAMIL Nadu's Siddharth Rao upstaged holder Sarang Shroff of Maharashtra to win the 62nd Senior National Snooker Title played at Bhubaneswar.

#### BSA Ladybird world ladies title

KAREN Corr defeated Kim Shaw 6-3 to win the title. The championship was held in New Delhi.

#### 4th women's national championship

HEENA Khandelwal of Bombay defeated the defending champion Pooja Bharkatia of Madhya Pradesh, 3-2, to win the title.

### SQUASH

#### Men's World Championship

ENGLAND'S Del Harris and Mark Chaloner led the country to a 2-1 victory over Pakistan in the Men's World Squash Championship held at Cairo.

#### World women's title

MICHELLE Martin retained the title by beating fellow Australian Sarah Fitzgerald.

#### 42nd National Inter-State Squash Championship

MANISH Chothrani of Maharashtra helped his team perform a hat-trick by beating Services A in the 42nd National Inter-State Squash Championship held at New Delhi.

### SWIMMING

#### National championship

THE championship was held in Calcutta. J. Abhijit of Police retained the men's title while the women's title was won by Sangeeta Rani of Delhi. Police also retained the men's team title. The women's team title was won by Karnataka.

Sebastian Xavier of Railways emerged as the fastest swimmer.

### TABLE TENNIS

#### World Team Cup

SOUTH Korea beat Germany 3-2 to win the

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

men's gold medal. The women's title was won by China who defeated Romania 3-0.

### National Championship

CHETAN Baboor and Ambika Radhika of Petroleum Sports Control Board won the men's and women's singles titles respectively, in the 57th National table tennis championship held in Pondicherry.

### TENNIS

#### Wimbledon Championship 1995

STEFFI Graf beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 and capture her sixth Wimbledon women's singles title.

In the men's singles final, Pete Sampras crushed Boris Becker 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 to win the title. Sampras became the first American in Wimbledon history to win three successive men's singles titles and the first man since Bjorn Borg to win the title for three years running.

#### US Open, 1995

PETE Sampras of USA outlasted his compatriot Andre Agassi to capture his third US Open men's title. In the women's singles final Steffi Graf of Germany beat Monica Seles 7-8, 0-6, 6-3 to claim her third US open crown.

#### Hopman Cup

CROATIA won the Hopman Cup team tennis championship played at Perth after the Swiss Olympic championship Marc Rosset injured his right hand on an advertising board.

#### Australian Open, '95

MONICA Seles made a stunning comeback to tennis by winning her fourth Australian Open title played at Melbourne, beating Germany's Anke Huber. Seles had won the title for three straight years before she was stabbed in Hamburg in 1993.

Boris Becker won the men's title beating Michael Chang, more than a decade after the first of his six Grand Slam titles.

#### Italian Open, '95

SPAIN'S Conchita Martinez won her

fourth straight title by beating Martina Hingis 6-2, 6-3 in the final of the clay court tournament.

#### French Open, 1995

THOMAS Muster of Austria won his first French Open title by overpowering Michael Chang of USA 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

In the women's singles Steffi Graf of Germany captured her fourth French Open title and the Number One ranking from Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain.

#### Indian Open

THOMAS Enqvist beat Byron Black of Zimbabwe in the title match of the McDowell Indian Open tennis championships held in New Delhi.

#### Graf sets a record

STEFFI Graf set a record of 332 weeks as women's world no. 1 in the rankings released by WTA Tour. She first grabbed the no. 1 spot on August 17, 1987, ending Navratilova's reign.

In the men's tour, Jimmy Connors was ranked no. 1 for 268 weeks, John McEnroe for 170 and Pete Sampras for 121 weeks.

#### World Team Cup

OLMPIC champion Marc Rosset steered Switzerland to their first World Team Cup title with a 2-1 victory over the Czech Republic.

#### Federation Cup

SPAIN won their third straight Federation Cup as Conchita Martinez defeated Mary Joe Fernandez in two straight sets.

#### Davis Cup

PETE Sampras led the US team to the Davis Cup title. USA defeated Russia in the finals held in Moscow.

#### National Grasscourt Championship

NIRUPAMA Vaidyanathan won the women's singles title for the fourth time in a row in the National Grasscourt Tennis championship held at New Delhi, beating Manisha Malhotra.

Mahesh Bhupathi won the men's fi-

nal, beating Srinath.

### VOLLEYBALL

#### World Cup Men's Title

TWO-time world champions Italy defeated USA to win the World Cup Volleyball Title held in Tokyo. Italy secured a place for the Atlanta Olympics, scoring their tenth straight win in the 12-team round-robin tournament.

#### 44th Senior National Championship

RAILWAYS achieved a grand double, taking both the men's and women's titles in the 44th Senior National Volleyball Championship, held in Jammu.

In the men's final Railways dethroned five-time champions Tamil Nadu, 3-1, to lift the M.M. Joseph Memorial Trophy. The women spikers thrashed Kerala 3-0 to retain the K. Sivasubramania Memorial Rolling Trophy.

### WEIGHTLIFTING

#### World Championships

INDIA'S Karnam Malleswari set a new world record in jerk-lifting and won 3 gold medals in the women's 54 kg class in the World Weightlifting Championships held in China.

Greece, Turkey, Russia and China dominated the championships.

#### National Championships

RAILWAYS asserted their supremacy and lifted the Burdwan Challenge Shield retaining the men's team championship in the 48th National Weightlifting Championships held at Thrissur.

Police Sports Control Board (PSCB) got the P.K. Sengupta Trophy for the women's team championship with 8 gold, 12 silver and 6 bronze medals. West Bengal finished third.

Tamil Nadu with a tally of 122 points claimed the inter-State team title for the Kuppaswamy Naidu trophy while Andhra Pradesh were the runners up.

# TEST OF REASONING—1

**Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Selection Board Exam held on 19th May, 1996**

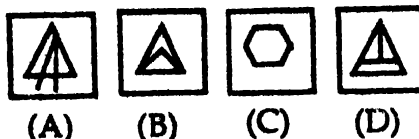
**NOTE :** Read each question carefully and darken the corresponding circle of the correct answer with H.B. pencil on the Answer Sheet.

**Directions:** In Questions 1 to 5, two sets of figures marked Problem Figures and Answer Figures are given. Which one of the Answer Figures will fill in the blank space in the Problem Figures.

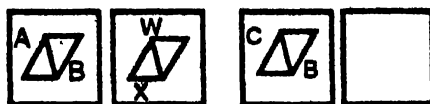
1. **Problem Figures**



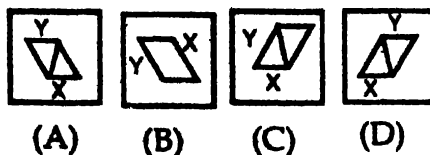
**Answer Figures**



2. **Problem Figures**



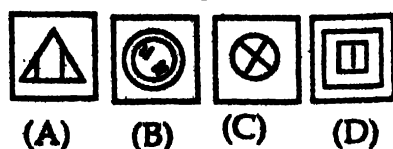
**Answer Figures**



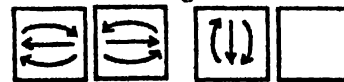
3. **Problem Figures**



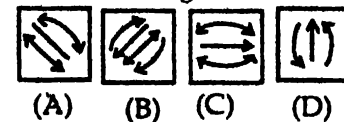
**Answer Figures**



4. **Problem Figures**



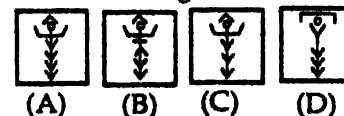
**Answer Figures**



5. **Problem Figures**



**Answer Figures**

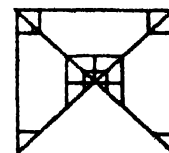


6. If MOHAN is coded as 56237 and UMA is coded as 853, how can HANUMAN be coded?

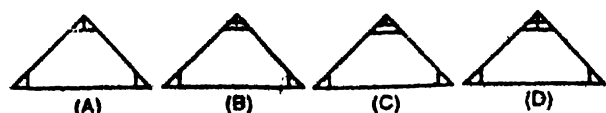
- (a) 2758373 (b) 2378537  
(c) 2852337 (d) 7783532

**Directions:** (Q. 7 to 10) In each of the following questions, a part of the given problem figure is missing. From the given alternatives, select the one which properly complete the pattern in the problem figure.

7. **Problem Figure**



**Answer Figure**





8. Problem Figure



Answer Figures



9. Problem Figure



Answer Figures



10. Problem Figure

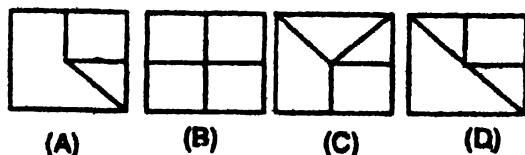


Answer Figures

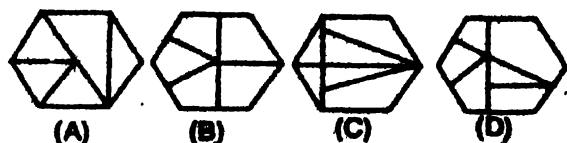


Directions: (Q. 11-12) In these questions a figure is given. From the given alternatives, select the one in which the given figure is embedded.

11.



12.



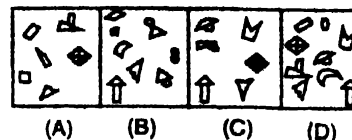
13. Arrange the following words in the sequence in which they occur in the dictionary.

1. Select 2. Seldom 3. Send  
4. Selfish 5. Seller  
(a) 2, 1, 5, 4, 3 (b) 2, 1, 4, 5, 3  
(c) 2, 5, 4, 1, 3 (d) 1, 2, 4, 5, 3

14. Arrange the following items from general to particular.

1. Sentence 2. Word 3. Chapter  
4. Phrase 5. Paragraph  
(a) 4, 3, 1, 2, 5 (b) 2, 3, 5, 4, 1  
(c) 3, 5, 1, 4, 2 (d) 1, 3, 2, 4, 5

15. In which figure the specified components of the key figure are found?



16. Number of letters skipped in between adjacent letters in the series is 2. Which of the following series observes this rule.

- (a) SVZCGJN (b) QSVYZCF  
(c) ZCGKMPR (d) MPSVYBE

17. Number of letters skipped in between adjacent letters in the series decrease by 1. Which of the following series is observing the rule?

- (a) BGKNPR (b) LQUXAP  
(c) CINRTU (d) EJNQST

18. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?

- (a) Pen (b) Calculator (c) Pencil (d) Ink

19. Which letter will be the sixth to the right of the eleventh letter from the right end of the following alphabet?

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

- (a) K (b) V (c) J (d) U

20. Pointing to a boy in the photograph Madhu said, "His sister is the only daughter of my father". How is the boy related to Madhu's father?

- (a) Father (b) Brother  
(c) Son (d) Cousin

21. In a certain code FICTITIOUS is written as IFTCTIOISU. How is POSTPONE written in that code?

- (a) OPSTOPEN (b) PSOPTNOE  
(c) POTSOPEN (d) OPTSOPEN

22. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?

- (a) Wheat (b) Paddy  
(c) Jowar (d) Mustard

23. Paddy is related to Field in the same way as steel is related to:

- (a) Factory (b) Iron (c) Ore (d) Mine

24. Facing towards South Pramod walked 50 metres. He then turned to his right and walked 30 metres. He again turned right and walked 50 metres. How far was he from his original position and towards which direction?

- (a) 20 metres East (b) 30 metres South  
(c) 20 metres North (d) 30 metres West

25. 'Cricket' is related to 'Bat' in the same way 'Hockey' is related to.....

- (a) Ball (b) Field (c) Player (d) Stick

26. In a certain code language 'pul ta nop' means 'fruit is good', 'nop ko tir' means 'tree is tall' and 'pul ho sop' means 'eat good food'. Which of the following means 'fruit' in that language?

- (a) pul (b) ta  
(c) nop (d) Data inadequate

27. How many 3's are there in the following number sequence which are immediately preceded by 6 but not immediately followed by 7?

2 3 7 4 3 5 6 3 7 4 6 3 8 9 6 3 5 1 8 3 7 2 4 2 8 6 3 9

- (a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four

28. 'Bird' is related to 'Wing' in the same way as 'Fish' is related to...

- (a) Water (b) Gill (c) Fin (d) Tail

29. Kapil ranked thirteenth from the top and twenty-sixth from the bottom among those who have passed in the annual examination in a class. If six students have failed in the annual examination, what was the total number of students in that class?

- (a) 45 (b) 38 (c) 44 (d) 50

30. If '+' means '-', 'x' means '+', '-' means 'x' and '-' means '+', what will be the value of the following expression?

$$9 + 3 + 4 - 8 \times 2 = ?$$

- (a)  $-6\frac{1}{4}$  (b)  $6\frac{3}{4}$  (c)  $-1\frac{3}{4}$  (d) 18

Directions : (Q. 31 to 35) Read the following information carefully and answer the questions given below:

- (i) There is a family of six persons P, Q, R, S, T and U. They are Engineer, Doctor, Teacher, Salesman, Manager and Lawyer.
- (ii) There are two married couples in the family.
- (iii) The Manager is grandfather of U who is an Engineer.
- (iv) R, the Salesman is married to the lady teacher.
- (v) The Doctor S is married to the Manager.
- (vi) Q is the mother of U and T.

31. How many male members are there in the family?

- (a) Two (b) Three  
(c) Four (d) Data inadequate

32. How P is related to T?

- (a) Grandmother (b) Father  
(c) Uncle (d) Grandfather

33. Which of the following is the profession of P?

- (a) Manager (b) Salesman  
(c) Doctor (d) Teacher

34. Which of the following is the pair of couples in the family?

- (a) PQ, RS (b) PR, QS  
(c) PS, QR (d) Cannot be determined

35. Which of the following is the Profession of T?

- (a) Manager (b) Salesman  
(c) Doctor (d) Lawyer

36. In a certain code language '743' means 'mangoes are good'; '657' means 'eat good food'; and '934' means 'mangoes are ripe'; which digit means 'ripe' in that language?

- (a) 9 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 7

Directions: Study the symbols below and answer Questions 37 to 41.

- $\Delta$  means is greater than  
% means is lesser than  
 $\square$  means is equal to  
= means is not equal to  
+ means is a little more than  
 $\times$  means is a little less than

37. If  $a \times b$  and  $b \square c$  then

- (a)  $c \square a$  (b)  $a + c$   
(c)  $b \Delta c$  (d)  $c + a$

38. If  $c \% b$  and  $b \times a$ , then

- (a)  $c \Delta a$  (b)  $b \square c$   
(c)  $c \square a$  (d)  $a \Delta c$

39. If  $c = a$  and  $a = b$ , then

- (a)  $b = a$  (b)  $c \square a$   
(c)  $b \Delta a$  (d) can't say

40. If  $a \Delta b$  and  $b + c$ , then

- (a)  $c \% a$  (b)  $c + a$   
(c)  $a \% c$  (d) can't say

41. If  $ac + bc$ , then

- (a)  $b \times a$  (b)  $c \Delta b$   
(c)  $b \Delta c$  (d)  $a \square c$

Directions : Study the three different positions of a cube given below and answer Questions 42 to 44:



Fig-1



Fig-2



Fig-3

42. Which number occurs on the face opposite to 2?

- (a) 1 (b) 4 (c) 5  
(d) Can't be determined

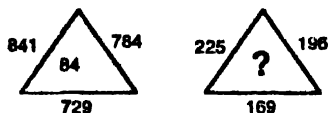
43. The number on the bottom face of Fig. 1 is

- (a) 1 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) None of these

44. The number on the face opposite to 6 is:

- (a) 1 (b) 5 (c) 4  
(d) Can't be determined

45. In the figures below, the question mark can be replaced by:



- (a) 42 (b) 62 (c) 82 (d) 32

46. What is the missing number in the series:

289, 196, 256, 169, ?

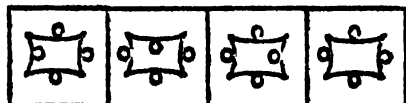
- (a) 324 (b) 225 (c) 256 (d) 144

47. A group of 1,200 persons consisting of captains and soldiers is travelling in a train. For every 15 soldiers there is one captain. The number of captains in the group is:

- (a) 75 (b) 80 (c) 85 (d) 70

**Directions:** In Questions 48 to 50, one of the four figures is NOT like the others. Identify that figure:

48.



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

49.



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

50.



- (A) (B) (C) (D)

### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (b) Just as the circle has an added smaller circle in the same way, the triangle has a smaller triangle in it.
- (d) Just as A has been replaced by C, W ought to be replaced by Y. The figure would remain the same.
- (d) Circle has converted itself into a square, the number of lines inside the figure remains the same. In the same way the double circle would get converted into double squares.
- (d) Mark how the arrows change direction.
- (c) Compare the first two figures and apply the same rule to the second set.
- (b) 7. (d) 8. (a) 9. (c)
- (d) 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (b)
- (c) 15. (d) 16. (d) 17. (d)

18. (b) All the others come under the category of writing material.

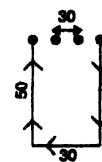
19. (b) 20. (b)

21. (d) Letters interchange position in pairs of two.

22. (d) All the others are food-grains while this one is an oil-seed.

23. (d) One is obtained from the other.

24. (d)

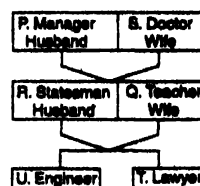


25. (d) One is a wooden implement necessary for playing the game.

26. (b) 27. (c) 28. (c) 29. (c)

30. (d)  $9 + 3 \times 4 + 8 - 2 = 18$  (BODMAS)

31 to 35



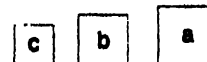
31. (d) 32. (d) 33. (a) 34. (c)

35. (d) 36. (a)

37. (d)



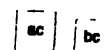
38. (d)



39. (d)

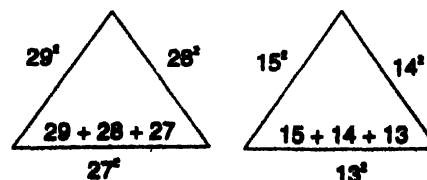


40. (a)



41. (a) 42. (c) 43. (a) 44. (c)

45. (a)



46. (b) There are two series  $17^2, 14^2, 16^2, 13^2, 15^2$

47. (b)

48. (d) There is no circle inside the figure.

49. (d) The main figure is different. The sides are not curved.

50. (c) All the other figures have been constructed with five

# TEST OF REASONING—II

**Find the odd-man out:**

1. (a) ghazal (b) pop (c) bhajan  
(d) kathak (e) jazz
2. (a) barometer (b) thermometer (c) seismograph  
(d) milometer (e) perimeter
3. (a) deck (b) quay (c) stern  
(d) bow (e) mast
4. (a) pine (b) elm (c) oak  
(d) willow (e) bough
5. (a) iron (b) cement (c) stone  
(d) silver (e) copper
6. (a) huge (b) small (c) tall  
(d) thin (e) sharp
7. (a) tongs (b) hand (c) crane  
(d) scissors (e) pincers
8. (a) Duryodhan (b) Meghnad (c) Shakuni  
(d) Karna (e) Abhimanyu

**Qs. 9-16. Each question below has a pair of words with a definite relationship between them. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair with similar relationship.**

9. light : darkness.  
(a) sanity : madness (b) anger : friendship  
(c) education : illiteracy (d) medicine : patient
10. badminton : court  
(a) cricket : bat (b) football : goal  
(c) skating : rink (d) hockey : stick
11. modern : ancient.  
(a) dull : jovial (b) history : geography  
(c) love : adoration (d) new : latest
12. appointment : ability.  
(a) transfer : punishment (b) business : money  
(c) promotion : merit (d) sale : salesmanship
13. failure : depression.  
(a) hardwork : success (b) sleep : dream  
(c) drought : famine (d) fitness : health
14. glass : cup.  
(a) tea : drink (b) book : syllabus  
(c) game : cricket (d) fox : bear
15. sugar : sugar-cane.  
(a) scale : measurement (b) boat : wood  
(c) furniture : comfort (d) chain : link
16. skin : flesh.  
(a) envelope : letter (b) bone : skull  
(c) eye-brow : eyes (d) moustache : beard

**Qs. 17-22. Match the items in the following questions with (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) on the basis of similar relationship among items. The order of the items may not be the same.**

17. kingdom : prince : king.  
(a) laugh : smile : grin
18. curds : butter : cheese.  
(b) bus : train : transportation.
19. crack : break : smash.  
(c) brain : thoughts : skull.
20. America : films : Hollywood.  
(d) lion : forest : cub.
21. club : cinema : entertainment.

22. river : water : lake.  
(e) students : school : college.  
(f) shoes : belt : purse.

**Qs. 23-27. Each question below has a series of numbers. You have to find out the missing number in the series.**

23. 31; 32; 33; 37; 45; ?.  
(a) 52 (b) 54 (c) 57  
(d) 59 (e) None of these
24. 7; 15; 32; 67; ?.  
(a) 99 (b) 107 (c) 119  
(d) 138 (e) None of these
25. 6; 8; 12; 16; 18; ?.  
(a) 20 (b) 24 (c) 22  
(d) 2 (e) None of these
26. 11; 14; 18; 23; ?.  
(a) 29 (b) 28 (c) 31  
(d) 27 (e) None of these
27. 9; 12; 21; 33; ?.  
(a) 43 (b) 47 (c) 51  
(d) 52 (e) None of these

**Find out the next set of letters in the following questions:**

28. ACF; GIL; MOR; ...  
(a) RUX (b) RTW (c) SVY  
(d) SUX (e) None of these
29. XVZ; USW; RPT; ...  
(a) ONR (b) PMQ (c) OMQ  
(d) PNR (e) None of these
30. EDHG; JIML; ONRQ; ...  
(a) STWV (b) UTXW (c) TSWV  
(d) UTW (e) None of these
31. GWK; JVM; MUO; ...  
(a) PTQ (b) OSR (c) OTR  
(d) PTR (e) None of these

**Qs. 32-36. Words given in the following questions are written in coded form as well, each small letter representing one letter from the word. Your task is to find out the right code for letters enclosed in box:**

32. B R I C K  
(a) g (b) z (c) u (d) d (e) m
33. S N A I L  
(a) j (b) v (c) x (d) m (e) w
34. K N I F E  
(a) m (b) z (c) h (d) j (e) y
35. F L O C K  
(a) v (b) y (c) g (d) z (e) q
36. S T O R E  
(a) p (b) q (c) h (d) x (e) d

**Answer questions 37 to 40 on the basis of information given below:**

Four youngmen, Manohar, Laxman, Satish and Praveen live in Nagpur, Bhopal, Poona and Agra and are businessman, chartered accountant, engineer and doctor by profession.

Manohar does not live in Poona or Agra nor he is a businessman

Laxman does not stay at Bhopal.  
 The businessman lives in Agra.  
 Satish does not stay at Nagpur.  
 The doctor lives in Poona.  
 Satish and Praveen are not businessmen or chartered accountants and they do not live at Bhopal.

37. What is Laxman?

- (a) businessman (b) doctor (c) C.A.  
 (d) engineer (e) cannot be established

38. Who among the four is an engineer?

- (a) Manohar (b) Laxman (c) Satish  
 (d) Praveen (e) Cannot be established

39. Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Satish is an engineer.  
 (b) Praveen is neither doctor nor stays at Nagpur.  
 (c) The CA is appointed at Bhopal.  
 (d) Manohar is neither doctor nor C.A.  
 (e) All are correct.

40. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Laxman lives at Nagpur  
 (b) The businessman stays at Poona.  
 (c) Praveen, the engineer stays at Agra.  
 (d) Manohar is neither engineer nor C.A.  
 (e) All are incorrect.

## SYLLOGISMS

*In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take everything given in the statements to be true although it may seem at variance with commonly accepted facts. Then decide which of the conclusions follow from the statements. Tick mark the right answer from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).*

**Statements:**

41. 1. All goats are cows.  
 2. Some cows are yaks.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some yaks are goats.  
 II. All cows are goats.  
 III. Some yaks are not cows.  
 IV. All goats are yaks.  
 (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.  
 (c) Either III or IV follows. (d) Only III follows.  
 (e) None follows.

**Statements:**

42. 1. Some books are papers.  
 2. Some papers are magazines.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some books are magazines.  
 II. Some magazines are not papers.  
 III. No book is a magazine.  
 IV. All magazines are papers.  
 (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
 (c) Either I or III follow. (d) Only III and IV follow.  
 (e) Either II or III follow.

**Statements:**

43. 1. All birds are snakes.  
 2. All snakes are tigers.

**Conclusions:**

- I. All snakes are birds.  
 II. All tigers are birds.  
 III. All birds are tigers.  
 IV. Some birds are not tigers.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
 (c) Only III follows. (d) Either III or IV follows.  
 (e) Only II and IV follow.

**Statements:**

44. 1. Some water-falls are rivers.  
 2. All rivers are lakes.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some water-falls are lakes.  
 II. Some lakes are rivers.  
 III. Some water-falls are not rivers.  
 IV. Some water-falls are not lakes.  
 (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
 (c) Only III and IV follow. (d) Only I and III follow.  
 (e) All the four follow.

**Statements:**

45. 1. Some shoes are gloves.  
 2. All jackets are gloves.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some gloves are not shoes.  
 II. No glove is a shoe as well as jacket.  
 III. All gloves are jackets.  
 IV. Some gloves are shoes as well as jackets.  
 (a) Only I and III follow. (b) Only I follows.  
 (c) Only II and III follow. (d) Either II or IV follows.  
 (e) Either I or III follows

**Statements:**

46. 1. Most of the flying objects are heavy.  
 2. Some of the heavy objects are green.

**Conclusions:**

- I. All green objects can fly.  
 II. All the flying objects are green.  
 III. Light objects are not green.  
 IV. Some of the flying objects are not heavy.  
 (a) Only I follows (b) Only II and III follow.  
 (c) Only III and IV follow. (d) Only IV follows.  
 (e) None follows.

**Statements:**

47. 1. All flowers are buds.  
 2. All leaves are buds.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Every bud is either flower or leaf.  
 II. Some buds are flowers as well as leaves.  
 III. Some leaves are not buds.  
 IV. No bud is leaf as well as flower.  
 (a) Only III and IV follow. (b) Either II or IV follows.  
 (c) Either I or III follows. (d) None follows.  
 (e) All the four follow.

**Statements:**

48. 1. Elephants are heavier than cows but lighter than donkeys.  
 2. Birds are heavier than apes but lighter than cows.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Apes are lighter than cows.  
 II. Cows are lighter than donkeys.  
 III. Birds are lighter than elephants.  
 IV. Apes are the lightest.  
 (a) Only I, II and III follow.  
 (b) Only II, III and IV follow.  
 (c) Only I and IV follow. (d) Only II and IV follow.  
 (e) All the four follow.

*In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed, assumed or taken for granted. You have to consider the*

statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions are implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is correct.

**Statement:**

49. In these days of instant communication, people do not have time or patience to write letters.

**Assumptions:**

- I. In olden days, you could not contact people living in other cities as easily as you can do now.
- II. Writing letters is a waste of time.
- III. Contacting persons on telephone is less time consuming than writing letters.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Either I or II is implicit.  
(c) Only II and III are implicit. (d) Only III is implicit.  
(e) All are implicit.

**Statement:**

50. China's nuclear tests have been condemned by Australia and Japan.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Other nations are not bothered about these tests.
- II. Australia and Japan do not possess any nuclear weapons.
- III. Australia and Japan are not on friendly terms with China.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either II or III is implicit.  
(e) None is implicit

**Statement:**

51. The UF (United Front)'s minimum programme has promised to give greater autonomy to the States in determining their priorities in developmental programme

**Assumptions:**

- I. The Centre will have no say in the developmental programme of States.
- II. Prior to this announcement, all the development programmes of States were formed by the Central Government.
- III. States may like to give different weightage to their developmental programmes according to local requirements.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only I and III are implicit. (d) Only III is implicit.  
(e) Either I or II is implicit.

**Statement:**

52. According to a report, heaps of unattended files are lying in the Prime Minister's and other Ministers' offices where only those files moved in which the Ministers had a 'vested interest'.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Lack of administrative efficiency and indecisiveness have delayed the work.
- II. The Ministers are rather prompt with matters relating to their personal interest.
- III. The Ministers were too busy to attend to files.

- (a) Only I and II are implicit. (b) Only III is implicit.  
(c) Either II or III are implicit. (d) All are implicit.  
(e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

53. The officials of Medical and Health Department of a State are busy in contradicting the reports that measles has assumed alarming proportions in the State and has taken toll of 75 kids.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The reports are not reliable.
- II. The officials of Medical and Health Department are more interested in suppressing the reports than combating the deadly disease.
- III. No cases of measles have been reported from other States.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Either I or II is implicit.  
(c) Either II or III is implicit. (d) Only III is implicit.  
(e) All are implicit.

**Statement:**

54. Only 6 per cent of MPs in France are women compared to 9 per cent in Britain and 41 per cent in Sweden.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The French and English women are politically less alert than Swedish women.
- II. Sweden has a fixed quota of 41 per cent for women candidates.
- III. Men politicians are more popular and more efficient than women politicians in France and Britain.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit.  
(d) Only I and II are implicit. (e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

55. If communal riots are examined and analysed, it would be found that at the root of each incident are persons with criminal background.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Common folks are basically peace-loving.
- II. No one has ever cared to analyse the cause of communal riots.
- III. The miscreants are ever ready to play their nefarious game and take advantage.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit.  
(d) Only I and III are implicit.  
(e) Either I or III is implicit.

**Statement:**

56. Remains of four Buddha Vihars dating back to the Ninth Century A.D. were unearthed in a district of West Bengal by the Archaeological Department.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Only the Archaeological Department is authorised to search and dig old civilizations and monuments.
- II. Lord Buddha lived in Ninth Century A.D.
- III. Lord Buddha spent a good period of his life in West Bengal.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit.  
(d) Only II and III are implicit. (e) None is implicit.

Given below is a passage, and at the end of the passage some inferences have been drawn on the basis of the facts stated in the passage. Mark your answers:

- (a) if the inference is definitely true.  
(b) if it is probably true.  
(c) if it is doubtful as the data is inadequate.  
(d) if the inference is probably false.  
(e) if it is definitely false.

**Note:** Your answers should only be in the light of the information given in the passage.

The world today suffers not only from a lack of rugged

convictions but also from our timidity in expressing those convictions we do have, the unwillingness to speak out publicly against the evils we lament privately is one which every human being must apply to himself. Our motto too often seems to be, "Stay aloof. Don't get involved. Let somebody else stick his neck out." In the face of all kinds of conditions screaming to be rectified, too many of us find ourselves afflicted with moral laryngitis. One often wonders what has become of the great voices who fearlessly assailed national evils, denounced the immorality and corruption of higher circles, often at the cost of their heads. They stormed against the evils of their day. On the other hand we need to ask ourselves whether we as individuals are displaying moral courage equal to the crying needs of home and neighbourhood, where our influence counts most! Our world needs turning upside down. Even a small minority can do it, but it takes faith and courage.

57. The writer advises us to stay aloof from happenings around.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

58. All the great leaders, who raised their voice against evil of their day were beheaded by the rulers.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

59. People in general do not raise their voice against the existing evils.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

60. Laryngitis is a contagious disease

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

61. If we have the courage to raise our voice against the present evils, we shall bring the desired change

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

62. The present system needs a change.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

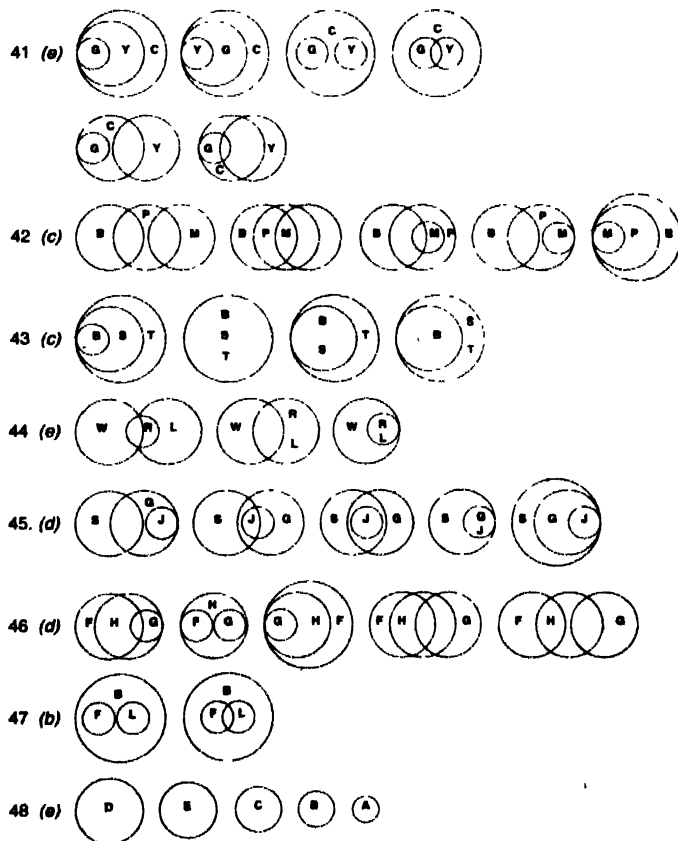
1. (d) It is the only dance form among forms of music.
2. (c) All the others are instruments for measuring something or the other.
3. (b) All the others are parts of a ship.
4. (c) All the others are names of the trees.
5. (b) All the others are dug out from the earth or mountains.
6. (c) All the others are related to dimensions.
7. (d) Scissors are for cutting while all the others help in lifting something.
8. (b) It is the only 'Ramayan' character among the characters from the Mahabharat.
9. (c) One ends the other.
10. (c) One is played on the other.
11. (a) The words are opposite in meaning.
12. (c) One depends upon the other.
13. (c) The items have cause and effect relationship.
14. (d) Both the items belong to the same general category, i.e., crockery and wild animals.
15. (b) One is made from the other.
16. (a) The words have the outer-cover and inner material relationship.
17. (d) The relationship is that of father, son and their place of dwelling.
18. (f) They are made from the same material, milk and leather.
19. (a) They have the relation of degree.
20. (c) One is inside the other and the third item is born there or made there.
21. (b) Two of the items are for the cause of the third one.

22. (c) Two of the items are necessary to fill in the third one.
23. (b) Go on adding  $1^2; 1^2; 2^2; 2^2; 3^2 \dots$  to numbers.
24. (d) The series is number  $\times 2 + 1$ ; number  $\times 2 + 2$ ;  $n \times 2 + 3 \dots$
25. (b) There are two series, 6, 12, 18 ... and 8; 16; 24 ...
26. (a) Go on adding 3; 4; 5; 6 ... to numbers.
27. (c) The number ought to be 54 as every number is the total of its two preceding numbers.
28. (d) The next set starts with the next letter of the last letter of preceding set and the gap among the letters is that of one and two.
29. (c) The next set starts with the preceding letter of the set and has the arrangement of 3; 1; 5.
30. (c) The letters have a definite arrangement, skipping one letter in each set.
31. (a) The first letters of each set have a gap of two, G ... J ... M ... P, the second letter is in reverse order, W, V, U, T and the third has a gap of one, K, M, O, Q.

For solving the next set of questions, sort out common letters from words and match them with common code letters

32. (d) 33. (b) 34. (b) 35. (c) 36. (a)  
37. (a) 38. (d) 39. (c) 40. (c)

The best way to solve the next set of questions is by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reach the fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Given below are some of the examples



49. (d) 50. (c) 51. (d) 52. (a) 53. (b)  
54. (c) 55. (d) 56. (e) 57. (e) 58. (d)  
59. (a) 60. (c) 61. (b) 62. (a)



# Current General Knowledge

## ABBREVIATIONS

CD: Conference on Disarmament

CMP: Common Minimum Programme

CTBT: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

## AWARDS

**Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding**

**PRIME** Minister of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir-bin-Mohammad, has been selected for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1994, for his outstanding contribution to building closer cooperation among developing countries. The award carries a citation, a trophy and Rs 15 lakh in cash.

## BOOKS

**Jackie and Jackie**

**WRITTEN** by Gore Vidal, the biography of Jacqueline Kennedy titled, 'Jackie and Jackie: Portrait of an American Marriage' says that the American First Lady had an affair with actor William Holden in 1955 to get back at her husband John Kennedy for his various romances, including those with actresses Audrey Hepburn and Sophia Lauren. The book also says that she had a romance with Defence Department official Roswell Gilpatric.

## CYBERSPACE

**SEBI plans home pages**

**SEBI** will soon provide Netsurfers across the world a home page of its own, the SEBI Home Page. It will use the net to "talk" to investors, companies and the world at large.

To be online in three months, SEBI's page aims to bundle all its regulations backed up with regular updates. At first SEBI's 'Complete Compendium of Guidelines' will be available on line. The home page will provide ready to reckon infor-

mation to foreign institutional and domestic investors and will also act as a bulletin board.

The page will assist FIIs and domestic capital market intermediaries in providing information concerning regulations and the regulatory body in the privacy of their offices. It will also cut down visits to SEBI's publications department.

In addition to guidelines, SEBI will also put out data relating to changes and events in the capital markets, such as information on FII investments, stock market data and so on.

## DEFENCE

**Indigenous transport aircraft planned**

**I**NDIA is planning a project to design a world-class medium transport aircraft for military requirements. Three different versions will be developed with the same wing size. The first will be a cargo-transport with a payload of 135 tonnes, the second a passenger aircraft with a capacity of 120 and the third a multirole transport aircraft, which would carry up to 10 tonnes of cargo and 80 passengers.

The project has been conceived by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) engaged in the design of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and has been debated in various fora of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The project is conceived to meet future requirements of Indian forces. These include computer simulations, wind tunnel studies and mathematical modelling.

Later, a passenger version of the aircraft would also be designed with some modifications, which could replace the Boeing-757 aircraft of Indian passenger fleet. The total estimated outlay for the project is Rs 3,000 crore.

The aircraft will have a maximum take-off weight of 48.25 tonnes and could

fly with the full payload up to 3,000 km at a stretch. It would have a cruise speed of about three-fourth the speed of sound. It will be equipped with a version of the fly-by-wire flight control system.

Another advanced feature of the aircraft is that the high speed global positioning system being developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) will be employed for precision landing and navigation. Besides, the wing would be designed as aeroelastic.

## PERSONS

**Deoras, Madhukar Dattatreya (Balasaheb)**

**B**ALASAHEB Deoras, who died on June 17, 1996 at the age of 81, was the RSS chief for 21 years (1973-94). He was against untouchability, declaring in 1974, "If untouchability is not wrong, nothing in the world is wrong." He was the first to announce a successor while he was alive, giving up the RSS tradition of the 'will' being made public posthumously.

Under the leadership of Balasaheb Deoras, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) came out of its apolitical shackles and became a formidable force with distinctive stands on various political issues.

**Iyengar, B.K.S.**

**Y**OGA expert B.K.S. Iyengar, 78, popularises yoga through his 175 centres in various countries, and can boast of students such as Yehudi Menuhin, J Krishnamurthy and Jayaprakash Narayan. Iyengar made yogasanas easier by using brick pillows and wooden structures that made his yoga distinctive, called Iyengar yoga. He mixes spirituality with physical asanas, which makes him different from other yoga experts. Asanas, according to him, are not just physical but psycho-spiritual. Iyengar yoga is today taught all over

the world. His book, "*Light on Yoga*" has been translated into 17 languages and considered to be the best book on yoga.

#### **Mahathir-bin-Mohammad**

**D**R Mahathir-bin-Muhammad, who has been selected for the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1994, has pursued the objectives of equity and justice, speaking out for poorer nations in world fora. He was instrumental in setting up of the South Commission and the South Centre and the formation of the G-15.

Born on December 20, 1925, Dr Mahathir became Prime Minister of Malaysia on July 16, 1981. He studied to become a doctor and displayed a commitment to the elimination of poverty among the rural poor. During his time, Malaysia went towards greater prosperity with a harmonious multi-racial society.

#### **Reddy, Neelam Sanjeeva**

**F**ORMER President Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, who died in Bangalore on June 1, 1996, was one of the most illustrious leaders of the country. Born on May 19, 1913, he became member of the Madras Assembly in 1946 and the Constituent Assembly in 1947. He was elected Congress President in 1960 and in 1962 became the Chief Minister of his home State, Andhra Pradesh. He was Union minister twice. In 1969 he turned to farming but in 1975 he was drawn by Jayaprakash Narayan and returned to active politics.

#### **PLACES**

##### **Mirzapur—A Town of Carpets**

**M**IRZAPUR, situated on the banks of the Ganges within the orbits of the holy city of Varanasi, is today a bustling centre of a \$ 650 million carpet trade, accounting for 90 per cent of India's exports.

The exotic carpets of Mirzapur find buyers from Germany, Australia, Japan, France, Sweden, US and the UK, who come to strike a deal with the 300-odd exporters here and in adjoining Bhadohi, the nucleus of the carpet export trade.

Once renowned as a centre for cotton trade during the British regime, the township's 1.75 lakh population inherited

the skill and craftsmanship from the English peasantry, who evinced interest in weaving and carpet making as early as 1856.

#### **PROJECTS**

##### **CFCs substitute being prepared**

**T**HE Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) in Hyderabad is setting up a pilot plant to produce "Hydrofluoro Carbons-134A" (HFC-134A), a substitute for Chloro Fluoro Carbons (CFCs) which cause depletion of the Ozone layer.

The institute developed HFC-134A on laboratory scale following refusal by CFCs-producing countries to transfer the technology to India. The Montreal protocol has set 2010 AD as the deadline for India to phase out CFCs which are used in refrigerators, airconditioners, solvent chemicals of electronic materials and aerosols.

The HFC is off patent and, therefore, does not fall under the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The pilot plant for producing HFCs, which was based on the lab scale technology, is expected to be completed next year. The cost is being borne by the Department of Science and Technology and two pharmaceutical companies, besides ILCT.

The technology developed at the pilot would form the basis for establishing a commercial plant with a capacity to produce 5,000 tonnes of HFCs annually, which would be enough not only to meet the country's needs but to compete in the international market.

##### **Jegurupadu Power Project**

**T**HE 235-MW Jegurupadu power project, being developed by GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh, has started supplying power to the State grid, making it the first fast track project in the country to do so.

By the end of the year the project is expected to supply an estimated 150 MW to the State grid.

#### **RESEARCH**

##### **First heart-shrink surgery performed**

**T**HE Asia-Pacific region's first heart-shrink surgery was successfully performed at the Escorts Heart Institute

and Research Centre in New Delhi on June 1, 1996.

This surgery, which may replace almost all heart transplant operations, comes on the heels of a similar operation performed in Britain just a week before. "It is the first time heart-shrink surgery has been done in this region", claimed Naresh Trehan, who led the team of cardiosurgeons.

The operation was successfully performed on 59-year-old Mani Ram Gurera, who had been suffering from enlarged heart (or dilated cardiomyopathy—a condition recognised by heart-beat difficulty because muscles start dilating) for the past ten years.

The conventional treatment for an enlarged heart is heart transplant. But this has a host of problems: lack of donors, patient motivation, surgical facilities and post-operative follow-up and medication.

Moreover, transplant cost is tremendous. Heart-shrink surgery can be performed in at least one-tenth of the transplant expenses. The post-operative medication in a transplant operation is about Rs 50,000 a year, while in heart-shrink surgery the post-operative medication is between Rs 100 to 200 only.

The idea of shrinking an enlarged heart by removing a chunk of muscles first struck the mind of a Brazilian surgeon, Randal Batista, 12 years ago, when he came across the carcasses of a buffalo and a snake. After dissection, he found the ratios between the diameter and amount of muscle identical. The ratio for a human heart should be the same, he reasoned. So for an enlarged heart, the cure would be to restore the ratio.

Dr Trehan brought the technique home after participating in a workshop held on the subject in Britain. With the successful heartshrink operation at Escorts hospital, India has bracketed itself with countries like Britain, the U.S. and Brazil in the frontiers of cardiac surgery.

#### **SPACE**

##### **Earth finds a new celestial neighbour**

**A**STRONOMERS have found preliminary evidence of a Jupiter-size planet

that is much closer to earth than any previously detected, and which may be similar to our own solar system.

The new observations indicate an object in a circular orbit at about the same distance from its star that Saturn is from the sun, and suggest that as many as two other planets may be in orbit around the small red star called Lalande 21185, the fourth-closest star to Earth.

The discovery, made by George Gatewood and colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh's Allegheny Observatory, was reported at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Madison, Wisconsin.

For 66 years, Allegheny's telescope has been tracking Lalande 21185, which is one of the most intensely studied objects in the sky because it is only 8.1 light years from Earth (The nearest star to Earth is Proxima Centauri, about 4.2 light years away).

Dr Gatewood's group observed an effect astronomers around the world had been seeking for decades: as Lalande 21185 moved across the sky, something seemed to be causing it to speed up and then slow down at regular intervals. This peculiar "wobbling" motion could be explained by an orbiting massive planet that alternately tugs the star forward and pulls it back. Similar methods have been used numerous times to confirm the presence of binary (paired) star systems.

However, the Allegheny team has not yet proven conclusively that the Lalande 21185's speed changes are caused by a planet. The variations are so small that confirmation of the planet may be difficult. Another problem is the relatively long orbital time of about 30 years, which slows down the confirmation work.

#### Mission to Saturn

A joint mission to Saturn is being scheduled for launch in 1997 and may be the most spectacular ever to a planet in the solar system.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) plan to

launch their Cassini Mission in October 1997.

The \$ 3 billion project will study the giant planet and its rings in the same way that the successful Galileo space probe delivered important information about Jupiter.

Cassini's journey to the sixth major planet, the second largest, involves a greater distance than the Galileo mission to Jupiter.

Thermoelectric generators, fed by plutonium isotopes will be used to power the motlier spacecraft and another probe during the mission to Saturn.

But the use of plutonium prompted a demonstration in Cape Canaveral at which protesters drew attention to the danger of a nuclear accident during take-off in Florida or at a later stage when the mission flies past earth.

NASA tried to allay such fears, arguing that the chance of radioactive material being released in the event of an accident is minimal. US space officials point out that already 23 other plutonium-powered spacecraft have been launched from Cape Canaveral and elsewhere in the past 30 years.

In a bid to ensure that such fears do not dampen enthusiasm for the mission, the space agency offered individuals the chance to make their mark in space by sending their signature skyward on the Cassini spacecraft.

The signatures will be transferred onto CD-ROM and will be carried aloft by Cassini, that will loop around Venus, the Earth and Jupiter before reaching Saturn in 2004.

#### Columbia Space shuttle mission

SPACE shuttle Columbia blasted off and traced toward orbit on June 30, 1996 on a mission to study subtle but important changes in the human body in weightlessness.

While in orbit, four of the astronauts were poked with needles and wore caps with electrodes. The laboratory work was similar to what's planned for the international space station, to be built later this decade and next.

The US, Canadian and French astro-

nauts conducted 138 million dollars worth of biomedical, plant, fluid and metal experiments in orbit.

Four of them, among them two doctors, a veterinarian and a physicist had red blood drawn in orbit and recorded their diminishing muscle strength. They also monitor, their sleep by wearing caps with electrodes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The post card is 117 years old

INTRODUCED on July 1st in India in 1879, the post card has had a long way from the common man's means of communication to a commercial tool of businessmen and television quiz programmes.

Some people have demanded scrapping of the subsidised cards, which are running a loss of almost 135 paise each, but still sell for 15 paise. It is the only consumer item whose price has not gone up from the nominal price of 15 paise fixed in 1974. Earlier, people used cards to know about the well being of relatives. Now more modern gadgets can be used for that. People may have started avoiding post cards because the literacy level has gone up and so has the ability to write longer letters.

Out of over 1.5 lakh post cards delivered in the capital daily, more than 25,000 are addressed to TV quiz programmes. The postal department has now instructed producers and TV officials to ensure that people write "TVC" (TV commercials) on the post cards to make segregation at the post offices more easy.

The post card first took shape in Austria in 1869 when a professor of national economy, Emanuel Hermann, proposed a new and cheaper form of postal stationery made from a small sheet of cardboard bearing a printed stamp on one side leaving the other side for a short message.

It soon caught the fancy of the Austrian Director General of posts who ordered to release the first stamped post card in the country. England issued its first post card in 1870 and nine years later it was introduced in India.

## Appointments Etc

### APPOINTED; ELECTED ETC

**Olafur Ragnar Grimsson** President of Iceland

**Sheikh Hasina Wajed** Prime Minister of Bangladesh

**Necmettin Erbakan** Prime Minister of Turkey

**R M Abhyankar** Formerly India's Ambassador to Damascus he has been appointed as the next Ambassador to Turkey

**C I Kaur** Chairman of the Railway Board

### RESIGNED

**Mesut Yilmaz** Prime Minister of Turkey  
**DIED**

**Andreas Papandreu** First socialist Prime Minister of Greece He was 77

**George Snell** Nobel prize winner for medicine in 1980 whose research paved the way for modern organ transplants

**Balasubramanian** Former RSS Chief He was 81  
**Ray Lindwall** One of Australian cricket's greatest fast bowlers He was 74

## UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**H D Deve Gowda** Prime Minister and also in charge of the ministries/departments of urban affairs and employment personnel public grievances and pensions atomic energy as well as all other ministries/departments not allocated to any other Cabinet minister or minister of State (independent charge)

### CABINET MINISTERS

**Balwant Singh Ramoowalia** Welfare

**Birendra Prasad Barshya** Steel and Mines

**C M Ibrahim** Civil Aviation and additional charge of Information and Broadcasting  
**Chaturanan Mishra** Agriculture excluding department of animal husbandry and dairying

**Devendra Prasad Yadav** Food and Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

**I K Gujral** External Affairs

**Indrajit Gupta** Home Affairs

**Janeshwar Mishra** Water Resources

**M Arunachalam** Labour

**Mulayam Singh Yadav** Defence

**Murasoli Maran** Industry

**P Chidambaram** Finance and Department of Company Affairs

**Ram Vilas Paswan** Railways

**S R Bommai** Human Resource Development

**Srikanta Kumar Jena** Parliamentary Affairs and Department of Tourism

**T G Venkatraman** Surface Transport

**Yarran Naidu** Rural Areas and Employment

**R I Jalappa** Textiles

**Beni Prasad Varma** Communications

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(Independent charge)

**Bolla Buli Ramani** Commerce

**Dalip Kumar Ray** Food Processing

**Jai Narayan Prasad Nishad** Environment and Forests

**Mrs Kar ti Singh** Coal

**Ramakant D Khalap** Law Justice and Company Affairs excluding department of company affairs

**Salim Iqbal Shrivani** Health and Family Welfare

**Shree Ram Ola** Chemicals and Fertilizers

**Yogendra K Alagh** Planning and Programme Implementation and Additional Charge of Science and Technology

**Raghuvansh Prasad Singh** Department of animal husbandry and dairying

### MINISTERS OF STATE

**S R Balasubramanian** Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions and Parliamentary Affairs  
**Chandradeo Prasad Varma** Rural Areas and Employment

**R Dhanushkodi Athithan** Human Resource Development (department of youth affairs and sports)

**Md Tashmuddin** Home Affairs

**Muhi Ram Saikia** Human Resource Development (department of education)

**S Vinayopalachari** Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources

**U Venkateswarlu** Urban Affairs and Employment and Parliamentary Affairs

**Satpalji Maharaj** Railways

**N V N Somu** Defence

**T R Balu** Petroleum and Natural Gas

## EVENTS

### JUNE

- 8—China carries out a nuclear test even while expressing support for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- 11—The Supreme Court upholds the High Court order directing the CBI to register a case against Narasimha Rao in the JMM bribery case
- 12—The United Front government secures a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha
  - At least 44 people are killed in a bomb blast in Sao Paulo in Brazil
- 13—The Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed returns to power in Bangladesh after 21 years
- 15—A car bomb explodes in Manchester injuring 90 people
- 16—Heavy turnout is reported in the Russian Presidential polls
- 20—India rejects the CTBT terming it as discriminatory
- 26—At least 23 Americans are killed and 105 wounded when a fuel truck explodes at a military housing complex in Saudi Arabia

### JULY

- 1—LTTE militants kill 32 soldiers in an ambush in Trincomalee in Sri Lanka
- 2—Government announces massive hike in petroleum products
- 1—Boris Yeltsin wins Russian Presidential elections

## MILESTONES

**Iqbal Singh Dhaliwal** This year's civil services topper

**Amandeep Sekhon** Aged 11, she has been selected as the youngest acupressurist and her name is being entered in the 1997 edition of Limca Book of Records She has a diploma in acupressure and has treated over 100 patients

**Lalita Balakrishnan** She is among the 21 individuals and organisations honoured by the UN Environment Programme for the "Global 500 Roll of Honour", for their efforts to clean up the environment

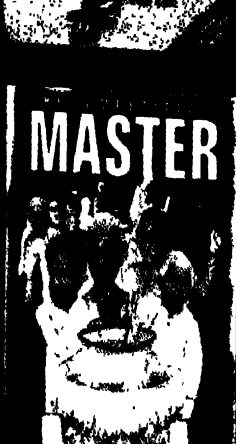
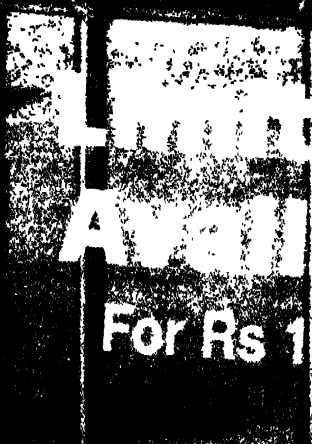
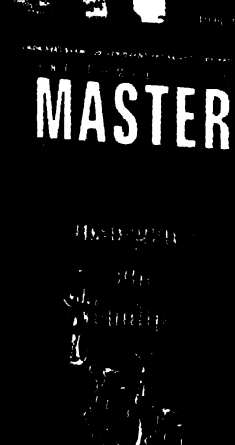
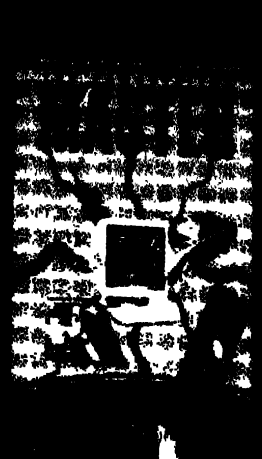
**Yasuo Hamanaka** Trader in the Japanese Sumitomo Corp, who used to trade on the London Metal Exchange and lost \$ 1.8 billion over 10 years He was sacked by the company but his actions raised fears of a crash in the metals market

### CORRECTION

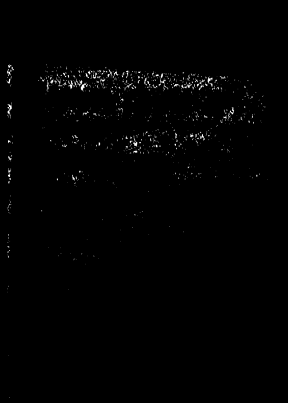
July '96 issue page 1096  
Mr E K Nayanar was mentioned as a Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu He is Chief Minister of Kerala

This mistake is regretted

—Editor



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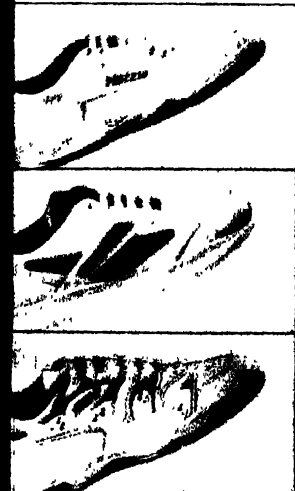


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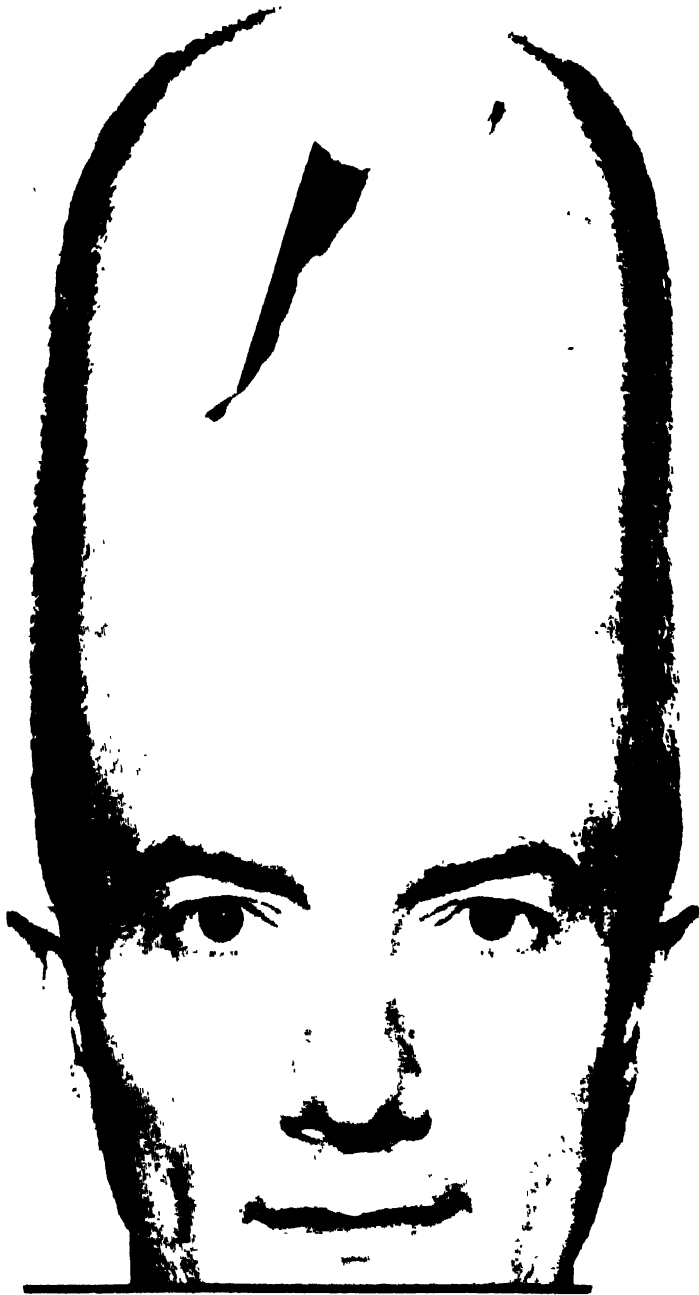
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THE COMPETITION

# MASTER

From the Desk of the

# Editor



*Dear Masters,*

**T**he two most popular features with readers in **THE COMPETITION MASTER** are the Reader's Forum and the Question Box, going by the response we receive for both. Many readers take up issue with the features published in the magazine; and the spectrum of the questions shows the vast and varied interests of our readers.

It was keeping this in mind that a competition was announced in the special issue last month. Readers will be happy to know that the issue was a big success and all the copies have been sold out. But, what has been overwhelming is the response to the competition. We have received hundreds of letters from all over India from young people giving their views on the country's fiftieth year of freedom. It is heartening to note that most young people are hopeful of a better future, though the issue of corruption seems to weigh heavily on many minds. Along with our readers, we hope that it is a passing phase and the future leadership would be cleaner than at present. Some readers, though a minority, are pessimistic and say that India is a declining State.

We are still going through the responses and will publish the prize-winners and other entries from our next issue. If you have not sent your entry yet, rush it to us post haste.

We look forward to your letters on all our features as it helps us assess the contents of the magazine. Do keep writing and let us know what you feel

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# Come Clean by Trial, Not Denial

Oscar Wilde has said that a cynic is a person who knows 'the price of everything but the value of nothing'. Judging from the on-going political games being played by the former Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, one is tempted to fit him in the framework of the aforesaid definition. Right from the days of the 'Suitcase' scam, Mr Rao has followed a three-dimensional strategy—silence, ambiguity and denial. In the sordid 'Suitcase' episode, Mr Rao maintained a prolonged silence which he broke with a classic pronouncement: 'I could not have come out cleaner. He issued a clean chit to himself.'

Come the 'Hawala' scam and Mr Rao's cynicism surfaced again. He made half a dozen of his senior ministerial colleagues sacrificial goats, let the CBI frame them while he himself looked the other way. Again, he made a classic pronouncement—the law will have its own course. The implication was that he was either above the law or he just did not care.

Come the 'Urea' scam and his direct involvement in it. The law once again was made to have its course! How? while the son of another former minister was arrested, Mr Rao's son was not. "The fond father went on record that he will not and never has, come in the way of any process whatsoever to bring anything regarding any of his relatives to light under the law." Mr Rao's declared distancing from the wrongdoings of his family members, however, raises some awkward questions. Is it possible for a Prime Minister to wash his hands off the corrupt practices of his son or relatives when the scandal has surfaced? How come that the Prime Minister declares this distance only

when the son is in a hot soup? Is it possible that a father is blissfully unaware when the son is amassing millions? The subtle subterfuge works only to the disadvantage of the claimant.

Come the Lakhubhai case in which Mr Rao has been charged of cheating and made a co-accused along with Chandraswami. His vague statement that he knew the swami but had no 'special relationship' with him was of the same timber as that of his sons.

The political sycophants surrounding Mr Rao, more loyal to the king than the king himself, do not debate the basic issue of propriety of his stepping down. They are feverishly engaged in preparing his defence. They blink away the fact that it is none of their job as the offence for which Mr Rao has been charged was not committed in his capacity as president of the Congress Party. Did the Party come to the defence of the Congressmen charged in



Hawala scam? The culture of sycophancy and hypocrisy has been the hallmark of the Congress Party.

And now comes a denial that Mr Rao was not in the US itself when he was supposed to have met Lakhubhai in a New York Hotel. The legal luminaries defending Mr Rao did not pause to ponder why such a simple fact as that came after a prolonged pondering. The ambiguous posturing, punctuated with mysterious silences, only strengthen the suspicions of the people. The people of the country want him to come clean this time by a trial, not a denial. And pray, what prevents Mr Rao to launch defamatory proceedings against those who are stabbing his and his family's reputation?

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# READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

## COALITION POLITICS

A coalition lacks unanimity. It will be pulled in different directions from the first day. Political ambitions and unachievable aspirations of the members will cause such experiments to fail and the present government will be no exception.

Bichu Muttathara  
Pune, Maharashtra

## EMERGING CHINA

China has an unquenchable thirst for territory. After Tibet and Hong Kong, it will want to take Macao and Taiwan too. At the same time, it has been supplying nuclear equipment to Pakistan but has managed the Western nations in such a way that they do not protest against its actions. Once it made the Americans to invest in its economy it blatantly violated provisions of the NPT and intellectual property rights. The US could not do anything as it does not want to lose a lucrative market. India is in the meantime still involved in a debate about its economy. It needs to learn both international politics and economics from its next-door neighbour.

Sameer Chander Mohindru  
Jharipani, UP

What is the use of development when your subjects are not happy and are not free to express their views. Compared to China, India is a much better country.

Amit N. Parekh  
Aurangabad, Maharashtra

## UNCERTAINTY TO DISORDER

It is a shame that a number of people have contested elections from jail. This gives rise to a strange situation. The very police officers who arrested them have now to be

at their beck and call. There must, therefore, be a law that prevents people with a criminal background, or in jail, from fighting elections.

V. Sagar  
New Delhi

## MODERNISM AND VALUES

Modernism does not mean losing values and heritage. It refers to a scientific attitude and giving up of superstitions and unhealthy customs.

Hina Arora  
Rohtak (Haryana)

The world has changed over the years. Many youngsters think that honesty, affection, innocence and morality are not required if they are to be modern. In fact, such people are simply uncivilised, not modern.

Deep Singh Kamboj  
Chandigarh

## PROHIBITION ISSUE

There is a saying that "to gain something you have to lose something". The economy of the States is heavily dependent on revenue from liquor sales. As such any attempt to impose prohibition does prove to be very taxing on the exchequer and the concerned government is left with no option but to raise taxes. Point to be noted is that habit of drinking is an evil and a little burden, by way of increased taxes, should be taken supportingly by the people. In long run prohibition is beneficial for the masses.

Subhas Raje  
Pune

## CM FEATURES

The topics chosen by you for discussion are really relevant. Your treatment of the subject is very readable and interesting.

Divya Sinha  
Angul, Orissa

The Question Box is a very helpful feature as it clears doubts on many subjects. Your magazine is indeed serving the readers well.

Kulwinder Roy  
Hoshiarpur, Punjab

## COALITION POLITICS

It is strange that parties who contested elections against each other have now joined hands to form a government. You correctly say that it is a coalition only to be in power. Since some ministers are reportedly not satisfied with their portfolios, it clearly indicates that their prime aim is not welfare of the country but their own fame and prosperity. A change in our method of electing leaders is very much required now so that we can have a legitimate governments in future.

Sharad Singh  
Lucknow (U.P.)

Votes of the people have been misused by politicians to form a government which nobody voted for. The Congress can continue protecting its corrupt ministers through the back door now, even though it has lost the elections. The coalition government is certainly against the will of the people of India!

Vijay Thakur  
Hamirpur (HP)

Your magazine is a storehouse of general knowledge and personality development features. It has really helped me in my life.

B. Mondal  
c/o 56 APO

I find CM very valuable and have kept all issues since 1990. It is a valuable treasury for back references and for looking up answers to various questions.

Saba Mahmood  
Allahabad, U.P.

The management interviews published by you immensely helped me to obtain admission in a management institute.

Neeraj Arora  
Ghaziabad, UP



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## ESSAY

# Career Woman of Today

A contemplative man of action, Gandhiji was unambiguous in his recognition of the fact that women were destined to play a positive role in the reconstruction of society. He was uncompromising in the matter of women's rights and underscored again and again that for social justice and fairplay, equal rights for women were imperative. Comprising nearly half the population in every nation-State, their urge to break off the age-old shackles of confinement to the hearth and home, is but natural in the fast changing values and concepts of life, its meaning and its relevance to the self and to the society at large. In the highly developed society, a career woman carves a niche for herself without arousing much ire and irritation, although the various shades of harassment that she has to face are more or less similar to the ones being faced by the upcoming women in developing countries like India. Seemingly, a career woman or a working woman may strike many a similarity in the context of her working place and the attendant strains and stresses that she has to undergo as a result of her dual role. Whereas a career woman looks up the ladder of aspiration and achievement in her capacity as an entrepreneur, executive, bureaucrat and the like, an ordinary working woman in her traditional placement as a teacher, nurse, telephone operator, receptionist, etc remains very much tied to the ground realities. The former is assertive and ambitious, both in approach and attitude, the latter is inclined to adjust and acquiesce to the prevailing pattern of work ethics.

In the male-dominated world, a woman-careerist has to do a lot of tight-rope walking before she can realise her dreams into reality. Whether single or married, she is face to face with many odds and

in certain situations where she is alone and finds herself in unsavoury circumstances, her physical limitations come to the fore. Despite her dynamism and determination to prove herself different from others, she has to cope with many a dilemma which her male counterparts treat as if coming in their natural stride. In the absence of the traditional support system that a joint family provided to a female working for her family and children in the good-old past, the working-woman today has to fend for herself and keep both the working-place as well as home fronts in an excellent health. Any aberration anywhere can lead to unpleasant consequences which no self-respecting working or career woman would be able to live with.

For a career woman, sky is the limit of her aspirations and no price is too heavy to pay if she can reach the top of the world. Her career is not confined only to the service sector or entrepreneurship but it includes political power-play, social reformation and activism in such areas as were taboos for her in the not very distant past.

However, the road to success is neither soft nor smooth. Besides the cut throat competition that she has to encounter from her well-entrenched male counterpart, she has to strike a difficult and delicate balance between her career and concerns for home and everything that makes a home. Women on the way up the career discover along the way that they must be twice as good as their male colleagues or competitors to get to the top. But whereas the latter don't have to pay a heavy price for being successful, the psychological and emotional price that career women pay is excessive. A career woman has to break or

divide herself into two to rise to the challenge, functioning in the work-place as unattached individual exclusively committed to her job and career, while continuing to shoulder a major share of the workload at home, particularly of child-rearing.

A woman is still seen as what the Victorians called 'the angel of the house'. While working outside the home has boosted her self-confidence and strengthened her position at home, it has not relieved her of the traditional duties of cooking, cleaning, child-care and a host of many other jobs that naturally go with the epithet 'house-wife'. She may have earned the telling title of 'Super Woman', juggling many tasks, racing to keep pace and holding up more than her half of the sky but the price and pressure on her psyche remain high and heavy, going by the demands of work outside and obligations at home.

A career woman has to try out a variety of strategies to involve her husband into sharing with her the mundane mores of house-keeping without hurting his male ego in any way. With the least leisure at her disposal, she has to keep her nuclear family in good humour and protect the marriage intact. The strain of this effort, though cannot be suppressed, erupts once a while in quarrels or reveals itself in resentments, anger, silences, neglect of growing children and in extreme cases, in divorce or separation.

There has been a real change in and for women careerists, without corresponding changes in men, social structures, public policies. The career women are still struggling to find private and individual solutions to what has come to be known as a "transformed social landscape".

# The 1996 Olympics



## Atlanta 1996

The event unites the world as resolutely as the Olympics of any other games, differences of race and religion are forgotten. What is the human endeavour to reach new heights of achievement? That was probably what the Greeks had in mind when they started the ancient games. And it is that spirit that lives on in the modern games even today, inspite of increasing commercialism. Four years ago, the world looks forward to the magic of the Olympics, which brings together athletes from the world over. The games test their heroism which helps people to win and to break new records. And they also stand witness to the tragedies arising out of doping. In sum, the games are not about winning and losing, but about the human spirit. It is not surprising that Olympics history is full of stories of historical turnarounds, where people have done the impossible and emerged winners against all odds.

Atlanta was no different. The spirit of Olympics was very much present here too, inspite of a bomb blast. The heroism was present not only at the games but also in the organisation of the huge event. There were 10,788 athletes in the city, along with 40,000 security men and 15,000 media people. The operation can well be imagined from the facilities required to be created. Some 21 million pounds of ice was required to cool the drinks, athletes and horses. About 10,000 tons of trash was generated by the games. Gold worth Rs 5 crore was used by the 604 gold medals awarded: each medal had gold worth Rs 20,000 in them, weighing 6 ounces. If that looks like a great amount, then wait for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, which will undoubtedly surpass the Atlanta show.

Our cover story traces the history of the Olympics and sketches the highlights of each game. We also give a list of all the gold medal winners. For India, the Olympics are a sobering experience and Atlanta was no different. We describe the performance of the country and discuss whether there are any lessons to be learnt from our debacle. Elsewhere in the issue, we debate whether India should stop participating in the games till we reach a certain level of competence.

**T**he XXVI Olympic games, which opened in Atlanta on July 19, 1996, were the biggest in history. President Bill Clinton formally launched the 16-day competition, while Muhammad Ali, stiffened and shaking from Parkinson's disease, lighted the Olympic flame to roars of excitement. Only a handful of people knew that Ali would be the final person to hold the torch after its 24,000 km trek across the US. He emerged from

darkness to accept the torch from four-time gold medal swimmer Janet Evans.

The four-hour ceremony honoured the 100th anniversary of the modern games, which became the first to be attended by all 197 member nations of the International Olympic Committee. There were no boycotts and the opening parade reflected the changing times. The parade of athletes could, however, be the last one since the organisers of the 2000 games in

Sydney are considering only a symbolic march with the athletes to be seated during the ceremony.

The games started with fears of terrorist attacks as a TWA flight had exploded just a week before. Despite tight security a bomb exploded in Atlanta on July 27, 1996, at the Centennial Olympic Park, killing two and injuring 110 people.

Many records were broken and the spirit of the games was kept alive, which has seen unmatched enthusiasm in the world since they were started.

## History of Olympics

The first recorded Olympic contest took place in Greece in 776 BC. The only event in the first 13 Olympiads was a footrace of about 200 yards but longer races were added over the years. Wrestling and pentathlon were added in 708 BC, boxing in 688, a four-horse chariot race in 680 and a savage sport called pancratium in 648 BC, which combined boxing and wrestling. Rome conquered Greece during the 100's BC and the games lost their lustre. In AD 394, Emperor Theodosius ended the Olympic games because of their great decline in quality. Thereafter no Olympics were held for more than 1,500 years.

The modern games were started by a French educator, Baron Pierre de Coubertin who discovered the ruins of the stadium of Olympia in 1875. In 1894, he presented his idea to an international meet-

ing on amateur sports and the group voted to organise the games, forming the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The first modern Olympic games took place in Athens in 1896. Women first competed in the modern games in 1900. The Winter games began in 1924. No games were held in 1916, 1940 and 1944 due to the World Wars I and II.

### Memorable moments:

The Olympics have seen numerable achievements. Among them have been Paavo Nurmi, a runner from Finland, who competed in 1920, 1924 and 1928 and won 9 gold medals. US swimmer Johnny Weissmuller won 5 gold medals in 1924 and 1928. Sonja Henie of Norway won the figure skating championship in 1928, 1932 and 1936. Jesse Owens (US) won 4 gold medals in track and field in 1936. Al Oeter (US) won the gold medal for discus throw in four consecutive Olympics, starting from 1956. US swimmer Mark Spitz set a record in 1972 by winning 7 gold medals in a single Olympics. These are only a few of the individual achievements in the Olympic games. Each of the games witness individual effort which can be termed as heroic.

### Mascot of the games:

Mascots at the Olympics have become a tradition. The famous mascots have been Misha for the 1980 Moscow games, Sam for the 1984 Los Angeles games, Tiger for Seoul, 1988 and Cobi for Barcelona, 1992. Suspense revolved around the mascot for the 1996 games, unveiled at Barcelona. The first-ever

computer generated mascot was called "Whatizit" and raised a hue and cry since it was absolutely new and resembled nothing on earth. It is blue with white teeth, red sneakers, lightening bolts for eyebrows and Olympic rings on its head and tail. The name was changed to "Izzy" after there were cries of protest. After early apprehensions, Izzy caught the imagination of youngsters. The Atlanta Committee for Olympic games gained about \$25-30 million from sale of Izzy merchandise.

**Sponsorship:** The cost of a corporate sponsorship of the Olympics has increased ten-fold since the 1984 Los Angeles games, when it was \$4 million. Today, companies like Coke, IBM and Visa paid the heftiest sponsorship fees ever. Coke is the largest continuous Olympic sponsor, since the 1928 Amsterdam games. Since Atlanta is home to Coca Cola, the company spent \$20 million on Coca Cola Olympic city and \$62 million on advertisements during the broadcast of the games.

### Population and medals:

A statistical study of the number of medals won by each nation in relation to its population shows that Finland is the most successful nation. With 288 medals in modern Olympics for a population of 5 million, the tally is one medal for every 17,632 people.

Sweden, Hungary and Denmark follow the list. The US, the biggest winner of medals in history, is not among the top 25 nations, with one medal for 135,674 people. The least successful country against this yardstick is India, which has won 14 medals in the last 100 years, amounting to one medal for 60,450,142 Indians. The next on the list are Malaysia and Iraq. Sri Lanka, which has won just one medal in the 1948 games, is fourth on this dubious list.

## Olympic Events

**ATHLETICS:** The sprint is one of the most exciting events in the Olympics. There are three sprint races, the 100m, 200m and 400m. Advanced electronics are used to determine the winner. When a sprinter finishes, he breaks a beam of light and his time is automatically recorded. The hurdles comprise two races, 110 and 400m. The first is run along a straight track and the athlete has to cross 10 high hurdles (1.07m). In the longer event, the hurdlers jump over 10 slightly lower hurdles (0.91m). The 400m hurdles is considered to be one of the most demanding races physically. One of the



greatest 400m hurdlers was Ed Moses (US). In the 1976 Olympics in Montreal he won gold in record time at the age of 20. He then went on to win 107 races in a row. Moses' world record was finally broken by Kevin Young, again of the US, at Barcelona in 1992.

The middle distance races are run over 800m and 1500m. They have been part of the modern games since the beginning. The 4x400m men's relay was introduced in 1908 and the 4x100 relay in 1912. The Americans have dominated both events. In 18 Olympics, they have won gold 14 times in each of the relays. The **marathon** is the oldest of the long distance races. The first modern marathon race was held in Athens at the 1896 Olympics. Getting its name from the champion Greek runner who ran across valleys and hills to give the news of the Greek victory over Persians in 490 BC, the 1896 Olympics had a marathon of 40 km. It was extended in the 1908 London Olympics slight-

ly so that the British royalty could see the start from Windsor Castle. Since then, the marathon has remained at 42.295 km. Marathon runners are given refreshments in specially designed plastic bottles after about 11 km and wet sponges are also provided.

In 1912, two long track races of 5000 and 10000m were also introduced. The **steeplechase**, which is a race over hurdles and a water jump, was standardised in 1912 at 3000m. There are also two **roadwalking** races, the longer one being 50 km.

The **decathlon** consists of multiple events and demands great stamina. The first such event, the pentathlon, or five-event competition, was held in 708 BC. It consisted of foot racing, long jump, discus, javelin and wrestling. The present version of the decathlon was introduced in 1912 and takes place over two days. There are four races, three jumping events (long jump, high jump and pole vault), and three throws (shot put, discus and javelin). In the 10 events, points are awarded for achieving set times, heights and distances. The competitor with most points is the champion.

The four men's **jumping** events are the long jump, high jump, triple jump and pole vault. All were included in the 1896 games. The height of the pole vault has increased over the years, from 3.30m in 1896 to 5.90m in 1988, which was achieved by Sergei Bubka of the then Soviet Union.

The **throwing events** consist of discus, javelin, shot and hammer. Compared with the early days, distances have

almost doubled these days. Shot putters and hammer throwers both use a heavy metal ball weighing 7.26 kg, which they throw from a circle just over 2 metres wide. The discus weighs 2 kg. The javelin is an updated spear weighing 800 grams.

**Women's athletics:** Women athletes first took part in the 1928 Olympics. The women's short sprint (100m) was introduced in 1928 and the 200m in 1948. The most recent double winner was Florence Griffith-Joyner of the US, popularly known as "Flo Jo". Another US champion, Gail Devers achieved the title of "fastest woman of the world" in 1992, just after recovering from a serious illness. In the final, only six hundredths of a second separated the first five runners.

The first Olympic hurdles for women was introduced in 1932. The first race was 80m, which was increased to 100m in the Munich Olympics in 1972. The hurdles are placed at 83.8cm. The 400m hurdles for women was introduced in 1984 and the hurdles are less high, being placed at 76.2 cm.

In 1928, the women's middle-distance (800m) race was introduced despite opposition that the distance was dangerously long for women. Several runners collapsed during the race and the race was banned. It was reintroduced in 1960. The 1500m came in 1972 and remained the longest women's race till 1984, when the 3000m and the women's marathon was included. At Atlanta, the 5000m race replaced the 3000m. The 10000m was first run in Seoul in 1988. In recent

years, more and more women athletes have devoted themselves to long distance races. The women's 10 km walk was introduced in Barcelona. Athletes must have one foot in contact with the ground at all times in this event.

The athletic multiple event for women started in 1964 as the five-part pentathlon. Two further parts were added in 1984 so in the last three Olympics, women have competed in the **heptathlon**, a seven-part contest. Held over two days, the winner is considered the finest all round athlete. Jackie Joyner-Kersey of the US won the heptathlon in the Barcelona Olympics.

In 1928 there was only one jumping event, the high jump, for women. The **women's long jump** appeared in 1948 and has been part of the Olympics since. The **triple jump** (hop, step and jump) is a new event in 1996. It formed part of the European championships in 1994 and was won by Ana Biryukova of Russia. Women's discus was introduced in 1928 and the javelin came four years later. Women's shotput was also introduced in 1948. All three events have become highly popular. Women's throwing implements are like the men's in design, but are lighter.

**EQUESTRIAN:** The equestrian squad of a country has to take its horses for the three disciplines: show jumping, dressage and the three-day event. The team must have trainers and grooms, vets and a farrier to replace horseshoes. An equestrian team may have to carry five tonnes of freight.



**WATER SPORTS:** There was no swimming in the ancient Olympics but the sport was part of the first modern Olympics in 1896. The first Olympic race in a pool took place in a 100 metre tank in London in 1908. The US has been the most successful Olympic swimming nation, followed by Australia and Germany. There are 16 men's races. Women first swam in the 1912 Olympics when there were two freestyle events. Backstroke and breaststroke were added 12 years later and the butterfly stroke came in 1956. Today, there are 17 swimming events altogether. **Diving** was introduced in 1904 and women's diving came eight years later in Stockholm. There are two separate events, springboard and platform or highboard diving. Each diver has to perform a series of dives, which are marked out of 10 by the judges. The whole dive is taken into account.

**Water polo** has been in Olympics since 1900. The team consists of 6 players and a goalkeeper. A game consists of four seven minute quarters. Hungary has been the most successful in this event, having won the gold six times.

**GYMNASTICS:** The 1896 Olympics was the first large meeting of gymnasts and there were five events: pommel horse, rings, horse vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar. An individual all-round event was added four years later in Paris and the first team event came in the next Olympics. The eighth event, floor exercises, was added in the 1932 Los Angeles games.

Women's gymnastics



have become very popular, as tiny young superstars have performed gracefully. In 1976 Nadia Comaneci of Romania won three gold medals and became the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 in an Olympic competition. The then Soviet gymnast Larissa Latynina has won the maximum medals (18, including nine gold). The rhythmic gymnastics competition was introduced in 1984. In this event the gymnasts are accompanied by music as they handle a hoop, ribbon, ball, rope and clubs. A rhythmic team event was held in Atlanta for the first time.

**WEIGHTLIFTING:** From flyweight to super-heavyweight, there are 10 events. The lightest lifters weigh 54 kg while the heaviest are over 108 kg. Top heavyweights lift twice their body weight on an average. In each class, the gold medal is won by the competitor who lifts the greatest total weight.

**OTHER GAMES:** Tennis was included in the first eight Olympics but dropped in 1928 and it was not until 1988 that it was brought back as a medal competition. It was, however, played as a demonstration sport in 1968 and 1984. There are four Olympic

events, singles and doubles for men and women.

**Table tennis** became an Olympic event in 1988 and China has dominated the game, winning five of the eight golds awarded so far.

**Badminton** was played as a demonstration sport in 1972, as an exhibition in 1988 and as a medal sport in Barcelona. Both singles events were won by Indonesia, the first golds ever won by that country. The doubles events were won by South Koreans. In Atlanta, a mixed doubles competition was included for the first time.

**Soccer**, which comes from association football with "cer" added to it, was the first team sport to be played in the Olympic games. Players have to be under 23 years old and must not have played in any of the World Cup matches. Eight teams played in Atlanta in women's soccer.

The **hockey** event had 12 men's teams and 8 women's teams in Atlanta. **Basketball** came to the Olympics in 1936 and the USA has continued to dominate the men's game, winning 10 of the 13 titles. Women's basketball was introduced much later, in 1976, and has been dominated by the USA and the former

Soviet Union.

**Baseball** was played as a demonstration sport at seven different Olympics and was finally accepted as a medal sport in 1992. Though it is a traditional American pastime, the title was won by Cuba. **Softball** is an indoor form of baseball and was played for the first time at Atlanta. Eight women's team competed for the medals. **Volleyball** was first played at the Olympics in 1964 and is one of the most popular sports. **Beach volleyball** was introduced for the first time at Atlanta. **Handball** was introduced in 1936 but was left out till 1972. Women's handball was added in 1976.

**Boxing** was introduced in 1904 and the Olympics gold has been won by many boxers who have gone to become professional champions. These include Cassius Clay, Joe Frazier and George Foreman. There is a feeling that the sport is too dangerous and there are demands that it be banned as an Olympic sport. **Wrestling** has remained a men-only event and has been there since the 1896 Olympics. Freestyle was introduced in 1904. There are 10 bodyweight classes ranging from flyweight which is under 48 kg to super-heavyweight which is over 100 kg. **Judo**, developed from the martial art jujitsu and was introduced in 1964, while the women's competition was introduced in 1992.

**Canoeing** is of two types, kayaks and Canadian. The Canadian canoes use a paddle with a single blade while kayaks use paddles with a blade at each end. **Rowing** has

been an Olympic sport since 1900 and women's event was added in 1976. All events take place over a straight 2,000 metre course. Three new events were added in Atlanta, men's and women's lightweight double sculls and men's lightweight coxless fours. Yachting had seven boat classes in the 1996 games and has been an Olympic sport since 1896.

There are three types of cycling events: track, road racing and mountain biking. Women's cycling was introduced in 1984. In Atlanta the

cross country mountain-bike races were new, for which a 12-km course was made.

Shooting has been in the Olympics since 1896 and the women's events were added in 1968. Competitors shoot at a fixed target from a set distance. In trap and skeet events they fire a shotgun at moving clay targets known as clay pigeon shooting. Fencing comes from duelling and has been in the Olympics since 1896. Women's fencing came in 1924. To score points, fencers must hit target areas on the opponent's body.

## ATLANTA OLYMPICS H I G H L I G H T S

Tiny nations like Belgium and Ireland exulted over the maiden triumph of their swimmers and Ecuador produced a walking champion. Japan was not overawed by world cup soccer winners Brazil.

There were tales of heroism too at Atlanta. The 15 year old Kerri Strugg became history as she chanted "I will, I will" while taking the final vault despite a strained ankle and won the US their first team gold in gymnastics. She became a national hero. Australian Wendy Schaeffer rode to gold despite a broken leg and her compatriot remounted to finish the cross-country unmindful of broken ribs and a collar bone. India's Inderjit Lamba was the coolest one and finished last, becoming the most expensive failure.

### ATHLETICS

Michael Johnson of the US completed an unprece-

dent double in the men's 200 and 400 m. In the 200 m he created a world record by clocking 19.32 s, beating his own record of 19.66 s.

**Fastest man:** Canada's Donovan Bailey became the fastest man ever when he won the 100 m in world record time. He overcame a poor start to scorch the track over 9.84 seconds to delight the crowd, depressed after the bombing of the Centennial Olympic Park. The previous world record was 9.85 seconds by Leroy Burrell of the US. With this, Canada could undo the tarnish that Ben Johnson had acquired in the Seoul Olympics, when he was disqualified on the grounds of drug abuse, after a record win of 9.79 seconds in the same event.

**Fastest Woman:** The 100m race saw some tense moments when Gail Devers and Gwen Torrence of the US and Merlene Ottey of Jamaica

hit the finishing line together. Gail Devers won by a minute margin, clocking 10.94 seconds. She became the first person since Wyomia Tyus (1964 and 1968) to repeat in 100 metre event.

Marie Jose-Perec of France won the 200-400m double, becoming the second sprinter in Olympic history to acquire the double. She impressed the crowd with her grace and power, to beat Merlene Ottey of the US and gained an edge in the final five metres. She has retained her Olympic 400 m triple with an amazing run that has made her the third fastest woman in that distance. She won in Atlanta in 48.25 seconds.

Ghada Shouaa won the heptathlon and became the first Syrian to win an Olympic gold. Part time worker in a Damascus electronic store, Shouaa laid claims to the title of the best allround woman athlete. Earlier, USA's Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who had the six highest scores in the heptathlon history, was forced to pull out on a sad note following a hamstring injury. By winning the gold, Shouaa laid claims to the title of the best allround woman athlete.

The men's decathlon, which consists of 10 events mixed into one gruelling contest spread over two days was won by Dan O'Brien. He had failed to qualify for Barcelona Olympics.

One of the most poignant images of the Atlanta Olympics was Carl Lewis holding a bag of sand from the long pit jump where he won his ninth gold medal. It

was a steely determination that helped him recover from a horrible hamstring injury last season. He matched the 9 gold medals feat of athlete Paavo Nurmi (Finland), gymnast Larisa Latynina (former Soviet Union) and swimmer Mark Spitz (USA). He wanted to win his tenth medal and create a new record, but was not allowed to compete in the 4x100m relay.

Romance of the Olympics took on a new meaning when lovebirds Gail Devers and Kenny Harrison landed a remarkable athletics double. Moments after Devers had sprinted to a victory in the 100m, their partnership was cast in gold when her boyfriend completed his half of the perfect match with a triumph in the triple jump.

Jefferson Perez won a walking gold and the first Olympic medal in Ecuador's history. His win gave Ecuador a chance to celebrate on the streets.

The USA, a traditional winner of relays, was handed its first defeat in the 4x100m and tamed embarrassingly on home turf by Canada.

### SWIMMING

American swimmers dominated the swimming. Jeff Rouse, the world's best back-stroker, won the 100 m race. Amy Van Dyken fought off a strong challenge in the 100 m butterfly. The US also remained unbeaten in Olympic men's 400 freestyle relay.

Michelle Smith of Ireland won the gold in women's swimming 100m. South African Penny Heyns earned her country's first gold medal

since it returned to the Olympics after a three decade ban. She created a new world record in the 100 m breast-stroke. In the 200 m freestyle, Claudia Poll of Costa Rica won her country's first gold medal by beating world record holder Franziska Van Almsick of Germany.

Hungary's Krisztina Egerszegi powered her way into history when she won the 200 m backstroke to become the first swimmer to win 5 Olympic individual event golds. She also became the first woman, since Australian Daum Fraser, to win the same event in three straight Olympics.

Fu Mingxia of China defended her Olympic diving championship of the 10-metre platform title that she won in Barcelona when she was just 13. Now 17, she won by an enormous margin of 42.36 points leaving Annika Walter of Germany with silver and USA's Mary Ellen Clark with bronze.

#### GYMNASTICS

World Champion Lilia Podkopaeva (Ukraine) extended her reign as queen of Gymnastics when she won the Olympic gold with a near flawless 9.887 in floor exercises. The American gymnasts, winners of 5 golds at Barcelona, stumbled out of contention on their floor exercises and left the podium in tears.

Kerri Strug secured the first American gold in Olympic women's gymnastics, before collapsing in pain. She was carried out on a stretcher, just before the scoreboard flashed the final points

confirming the American victory. It was the first time since 1952 that gymnasts from the former Soviet Union did not win a gold.

#### WEIGHTLIFTING

China had a difficult time at the Olympics, but not in weightlifting. Zhan Xugang, the 1995 champion, won gold medal and broke the world snatch, clean and jerk and overall marks to underline his dominance. Giving a wonderful display of controlled lifting in the snatch section, he beat Kim Myong-Nam of North Korea. Zhang won with a total of 357.5 kg (162.5, 195 kg).

China's Tang Ninsheng won the gold medal equalling the world record in the 59 kg weight division. Tang won with a total of 307.5 kg (137.5 kg, 170 kg), a new world and Olympic record. He held the bar aloft for more than 10 seconds until his personal coach ran to the podium and told him to drop it. In the men's super heavyweight division, Russia's Andrey Chemerkhin set a new world record. He won with a combined lift of 457.5 kg.

#### CYCLING

Europe did well in Cycling, with Miguel Indurain of Spain having won his individual trial gold; France bagged theirs in the team pursuit. European countries managed to retain their supremacy in Cycling, as they did earlier in the Barcelona Olympics.

Notorious loner Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli sped away with the women's road race to win gold. Long isolated by a

tumultuous relationship with the French Cycling Federation and her team-mates, the road racer trained by herself and travelled to Atlanta on her own. Longo-Ciprelli, a five-time world champion in the road race, capped her magnificent 18-year career with the Olympic gold that long eluded her. She won the 104.3 km road race in 2 hours, 36 minutes and 13 seconds, 25 seconds ahead of silver medallist Imelda Chiappa of Italy.

#### SOCCER

Some remarkable upsets were seen. World Champions Brazil were beaten by Japan 0-1. In another upset, Mexico toppled Italy. Brazil was stunned once again when it lost to Nigeria 4-3 in sudden death. With this, the country lost a chance to win the only soccer prize; it has never won the gold medal in Olympics. Argentina clinched a place in the Olympic soccer final for the first time in 68 years with a 2-0 win over Portugal. Nigeria captured the soccer Gold by beating Argentina in the finals.

#### ARCHERY

South Korean women dominated Archery with a fierce possessiveness to win their team gold. They have been haggling the gold at this event since the last three Olympics. On the other hand the South Korean men's team lost narrowly to the US and had to settle for a silver. Their consolation perhaps would be that they lost only by the minutest of margin. So minute, that magnifying glasses had to be used to determine the gold winner.

#### BOXING

Cuba's performance in Boxing saw a dip this Olympics. Amongst the Cuban boxers Maiko Romero did well by claiming his gold in the Flyweight category as did Victor Vinent when he beat the German Oktay Ural to win the 63.5 kg gold. Ukraine came into the limelight when their superheavyweight Vladimir Klichko took home his boxing laurel—one of the 9 golds that the Ukrainians claimed at Atlanta. Kazakhstan not only won their first boxing gold but their light heavyweight Vasili Jirov was also awarded the Val Barker Trophy for being the best fighter.

Apart from the strength and perseverance shown by sportsmen in the boxing ring, this year's games will be remembered in history as the year that honoured one of the most popular boxers the world has seen. Muhammad Ali was presented with a second gold medal to replace the one he had thrown into the Ohio river after winning it in the 1960 Rome Olympics. A victim of the Parkinson's disease, Ali had also lit the Olympic flame to signify the start of the games.

#### TABLE TENNIS

China swept all the four gold medals as also took three silver medals. In fact, in the men's singles finals both players were from China, such was their dominance.

#### HOCKEY

The hockey gold medal was won by Holland who defeated Spain 3-1 in the final. The bronze was won by



## India's pathetic performance

The Indian team took the advice of participating without playing seriously. It also revealed the serious shortcomings in the sports management in the country and the callous attitude of the organisers in using the Olympics to corner free trips to Atlanta rather than investing in training and facilities of the athletes. Indian sports were thoroughly exposed.

Indian hopes were anchored on shooters Jaspal Rana and Mansher Singh, wrestler Pappu Yadav, equestrian Inderjeet Singh Lamba, judoka Aarti Kohli, boxers Devendra Thapa and Lakhan Singh. There were in all 47 sportspersons who represented the nation and almost twice as many officials accompanied them to the games. Considering the size of the contingent, the Indian performance was an unmitigated disaster.

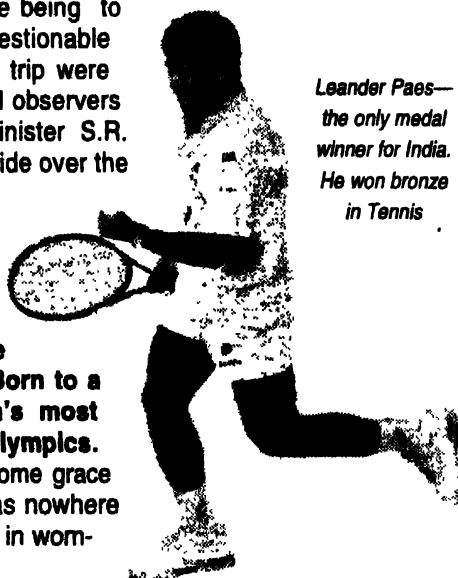
Jaspal Rana performed poorly attaining 534 out of 600 in the 50 metre free pistol event. With this, he finished last in a batch of 45. He admitted that he had not practised much for the games. In that case, his being part of the team can be questioned. Wrestler Pappu Yadav was thrashed 10-0 in the Greco-Roman category. Since he did not qualify for the 48 kg category, he had to be admitted into the 52 kg category.

Equestrian Lamba finished last in the 35 rider field and in fact was eliminated in the endurance test. His was the most expensive failure, with an expense tag of Rs 30 lakhs. Though he was sent 10 days before the opening ceremony, he did not start training till 2 days prior to the start of the games. Judoka Kohli was beaten at the first round in 3.30 seconds. The boxing contest had to be called off after Devendra Thapa was thrashed badly in the ring. The table tennis player Ambika Radhika lost in the opening round in just 14 minutes.

It has been claimed that the selectors of the Indian federation operate more as politicians than sportsmen, the chief motive being to get free tickets to go abroad. Among the questionable choices of people freeloading on the Atlanta trip were the Sports Minister, State ministers, MPs and observers of various kinds. Even Human Resource Minister S.R. Bommai took a free trip, presumably to preside over the country's dismal performance.

The only saving grace was Leander Paes's performance. He won the lone bronze medal for the country. He beat Brazil's Meligeni and won an individual medal for India after a gap of 44 years, the last being won by wrestler K.D. Jadhav. Born to a sports family in 1973, he was indeed India's most promising representative in the Atlanta Olympics.

Another sportsperson to come back with some grace was swimmer Sangeeta Rani. Although she was nowhere near any medal she broke the national record in women's 50m freestyle beats.



Leander Paes—  
the only medal  
winner for India.  
He won bronze  
in Tennis

Australia. Holland had never won an Olympic gold, having lost twice in the finals in 1928 and 58. Spain has also not won gold in Olympics. They were the loosing semi-finalists in Moscow, where India had won the gold.

### CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremonies at the Olympics have changed over the years. When the centennial games ended at Atlanta on August 5, 1996, it was like an American opera, full of music. There was pop, rock and jazz in the night of

concerts.

Different groups performed from different platforms in different corners before they all joined to create the crescendo with all the athletes joining in the middle. The joy was infectious and spread to the stands.

President of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch chose the occasion to refer to the Munich tragedy, where 11 Israeli athletes were killed in 1972. The families of the victims had been demanding that the memory of the slain athletes be perpetuated.

The flags of the 197 participating nations circled the stadium. The flags of Greece and Australia were raised as their national anthems were played. The last games of the millennium were thus over and the flag handed over to the mayor of Sydney. As an introduction, Kangaroos and aborigines performed at the ceremony. The Olympic flame was finally extinguished at Atlanta and disappeared into the night, and would be lit again in Australia's largest and oldest city.

The Atlanta show was dubbed as 'Consumer Games' and the Sydney organisers have promised that the 2000 Olympics would be 'Athletes Games' in every respect. Sydney has assured that elements of competitive sport will be ensured rather than the corporate concerns evident at Atlanta. It would also focus on environmental concerns and the games would be a role model for ecologically sustainable development in the face of global warming, ozone depletion and water pollution.

Australia is one of the three countries who have attended every Games since 1896. They have remained consistent medal winners and took their tally to 41 at Atlanta, from 27 in 1992.

## Gold Medal winners at the Atlanta Olympics

- ## ATHLETICS

**Men's**

**100 metres:** Donovan Bailey (Can); **200 m:** Michael Johnson (US); **400 m:** Michael Johnson (US); **800 m:** Vebjørn Rodal (Norway); **1500 m:** Noureddine Morceli (Alg); **3000 m Steeplechase:** Joseph Keter (Kenya); **5000 m:** Venuste Nyongabo (Burundi); **10,000 m:** Haile Gebr Selassie (Ethiopia); **Discus:** Lars Riedel (Germany); **Shot Put:** Randy Barnes (US); **Javelin:** Jan Zelezny (Czech); **Hammer:** Balazs Kiss (Hungary); **Triple Jump:** Kenny Harrison (US); **Long Jump:** Carl Lewis; **High Jump:** Charles Austin (US); **Pole Vault:** Jean Galfione (Fr); **Decathlon:** Dan O'Brien (US); **Marathon:** Josia Thugwane (SA); **20 km walk:** Jefferson Perez (Ecuador); **50 km walk:** Robert Korzeniowski (Pol); **110 m hurdles:** Allen Johnson (US); **4 x 100 m relay:** Canada; **400 m hurdles:** Derrick Adkins (US)

## Women's

**100 m:** Gail Devers (US); **200 m:** Marie-Jose Perec (Fr); **400 m:** Marie-Jose Perec (France); **800 m:** Svetlana Masterkova (Russia); **1500 m:** Svetlana Masterkova (Rus); **5000 m:** Wang Junxia (China); **10,000 m:** Femanda Ribeiro (Por); **Javelin:** Heli Rantanen (Finland); **Discus:** Ilke Wyludda (Germany); **Shot Put:** Astrid Kumbernuss (Gr); **Long Jump:** Chioma Ajunwa (Nig); **High Jump:** Stefka Kostadinova (Bulg); **Triple Jump:** Inessa Kravets (Ukr); **Heptathlon:** Ghada Shouaa (Syria); **Marathon:** Fatuma Roba (Ethiopia); **10 km walk:** Yelena Nikolayeva (Russia); **100 m hurdles:** Ludmila Enqvist (Sweden); **400 m hurdles:** Deon Hemmings (Jam); **4 x 100 m relay:** US; **4 x 400 m relay:** US

## ARCHERY

**Men's Individual 70:** Justin Huish (US); **Men's Team 70:** US; **Women's Team:** South Korea; **Women's Individual:** Kim Kyung-Wook (Korea).

## BASKETBALL

**Women: USA: Men: USA.**

## WOMEN'S SERV. MOV. BASEBALL

Cuba

## BADMINTON

**Men's Singles:** Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen (Den);  
**Women's Singles:** Bang Soo-Hyun (S. Korea);  
**Men's Doubles:** Rexy Mainaky, Ricky Subagja  
(Indo); **Women's Doubles:** Ge Fei, Gu Jun (Ch).

## BOXING

**Flyweight:** Maikro Romero (Cuba); **Feather Weight:** Somluck Kamsing (Thai); **Light-middle:** David Reid (US); **Light-heavy:** Vasili Jirov (Kazak); **Super-heavy:** Vladimir Klichko (Ukr); **Light-flyweight:** Daniel Bojilov Petrov (Bulg); **Bantamweight:** Istvan Kovacs (Hun); **Light Weight:** Hocine Soltani (Alg); **Welter weight:** Oleg Saitov (Rus); **Middleweight:** Ariel Hernandez (Cub); **Heavyweight:** Felix Savon (Cub).

## CANOEING

**Men's**  
**Cance Single Slalom:** Michal Martikan (Slova);  
**Doubles 1000 m:** Andreas Dittmer, Gunar  
 Kirchbach (Ger); **Men's 1000 m Canadian**  
**Singles:** Martin Doktor (Czech); **Men's doubles:**  
 Frank Addison and Wilfred Forques (France);

# COVER FEATURE

**Kayak Singles 1000 m:** Knut Holmann Bobomi (Nor), **Kayak Singles Slalom** Oliver Flex (Germany), **Kayak Doubles 1000 m:** Antonio Rossi, Daniela Scarpa (Ita), **Kayak Fours 1000 m:** Germany, **500 m Kayak Single:** Antonio Rossi (Ita), **500 m Kayak pair:** Germany (Kay Blum, Tors Ten Gutsche), **500 m Canadian singles:** Martin Doktor (Czech) **500 m Canadian pairs (C2):** Hungary

## Women's

**Kayak Single Slalom** Stepanka Hilgertova (Cze), **500 m Kayak singles (K1):** Rita Koban (Hungary), **500 m Kayak pairs (K2):** Sweden

**Kayak fours 500:** Germany

## CYCLING

**Team pursuit:** France, **Men's individual trial:** Miguel Indurain (Spa), **400 m individual pursuit:** Andrea Collinelli (Ita) **Mountain Bike:** Bart Brentjens (Hol), **Men's Road Race:** Pascal Richard (Switzerland), **Women's Sprint:** Felicia Ballanger (Fr), **Women's individual time trial:** Zulfija Zabirova (Rus) **Women's Road Race:** Jeannie Longo-Ciprelli (Fr), **Mountain Bike cross country final** Paola Pezzr (Ita)

## EQUESTRIAN

**Team Dressage:** Germany, **Individual dressage:** Isabel Werth on Gigolo (Ger), **Team Event:** Germany, **Three-day team event:** Australia, **Individual 3-day event:** Blyth Tait (New Zealand)

## FENCING

**Women's individual Foil:** Laura Badea (Rom), **Men's individual Foil:** Alessandro Puccini (Ita), **Women's Team Foil:** Italy, **Men's Team Foil:** Russia

## GYMNASTICS

**Women's Team Optional:** US, **Men's team event:** Russia, **Women's All-round event:** Lilia Podkopayeva (Ukr) **Women's Vault:** Simona Amanar (Romania), **Women's Asymmetric Bars:** Svetlana Chorkina (Rus), **Women's floor:** Lilia Podkopayeva (Ukraine), **Women's balance beam:** Shannon Miller (US), **Men's Floor Exercises:** Ioannis Melissanidis (Greece) **Men's Rings:** Yuri Chechi (Italy), **Men's Parallel Bars:** Rustam Sharipov (Ukraine), **Men's Pommel Horse:** Li Donghua (Switzerland), **Horizontal bar:** Andreas Wecker (Germany), **Men's Vault:** Alexei Nemov (Russia) **Rhythmic Gym:** Spain, **Women's Rhythmic all-round (Indiv):** Ekaterina Serebryanskaya (Ukr) **Women's individual all-round:** Lilia Podkopayeva (Ukraine)

## HANDBALL

**Men:** Croatia, **Women:** Denmark

## HOCKEY

**Men:** Holland, **Women:** South Korea  
**Fair play trophy:** India

## JUDO

### Men

**Lightweight:** Kenzo Nakamura (Japan), **Extra Lightweight:** Tadahiro Nomura (Jap), **Half-middleweight:** Diamel Bouras (Fr), **Middleweight:** Jeon Ki-Young (Kor), **Half heavyweight:** Pawel Nastula (Poland)

### Women

**Extra lightweight:** Kye Sun (N Korea), **Middleweight:** Cho Min-Sun (Kor), **Half middleweight:** Yuko Emoto (Jap), **Half heavyweight:** Ulla Werbrouck (Belgium)

## MODERN PENTATHLON

**Individual Overall:** Alexander Parygin (Kazak)

## ROWING

### Men's

**Coxless four:** Australia, **Coxed eights:** Netherlands, **Double Sculls:** Italy; **Coxless pairs:** Britain, **Coxless lightweight fours:** Denmark **Single Sculls:** Xeno Mueller (Swit), **Quadruple Sculls:** Germany

### Women's

**Double sculls:** Canada, **Quadruple Sculls:** Germany, **Coxless pairs:** Australia, **Single Sculls:** Yekaterina Khodotovich (Bel)

## SHOOTING

**Women's double trap:** Kim Rhode (US), **Women's air pistol:** Renata Mauer (Poland), **Men's air rifle:** Artem Khadzhibekov (Rus), **Women's air rifle:** Olga Klocheva (Rus), **Men's air pistol:** Roberto di Donna (Italy), **Men's 50 m free pistol:** Boris Kokorev (Russia) **Men's trap:** Michael Diamond (Aust) **Men's 25 m rapid fire pistol:** Ralf Schulmann (Gr)

## SOCCER

**Men:** Nigeria, **Women:** US

## SOFTBALL

### USA

## SWIMMING

### Men

**100 m backstroke:** Jeff Rouse (US), **50 m freestyle:** Aleksandar Popov (Russia), **200 m breaststroke:** Norbert Rozsa (Hungary), **100 m freestyle:** Aleksandar Popov (Rus), **100 m butterfly:** Devis Pankratov (Russia), **200 m freestyle:** Danyon Loader (New Zealand), **100 m breaststroke:** Fredrik Deburghgraeve (Belgium) (1 00 65 New World Record), **200 m butterfly:** Devis Pankratov (Rus), **200 m individual medley:** Attila Czene (Hungary), **200 m backstroke:** Brad Bridgewater (US), **400 m individual medley:** Tom Dolan (US), **400 m freestyle:** Danyon Loader (New Zealand), **1,500 m freestyle:** Kieren Perkins (Australia), **4x100m freestyle relay:** US, **4x200 m freestyle relay:** US, **4x100 m medley relay:** US

### Women

**50 m freestyle:** Amy Van Dyken (US); **100 m backstroke:** Beth Botsford (US), **100 m freestyle:** Le Jingyi (China), **100 m breaststroke:** Penelope Heyns (South Africa); **100 m butterfly:** Amy Van Dyken (US), **200 m butterfly:** Susan O'Neil (Australia), **200 m freestyle:** Claudia Poll (Costa Rica), **200 m backstroke:** Krisztina Egervari (Hungary) **200 m individual medley:** Michelle Smith (Ire), **400 m freestyle:** Michelle Smith (Ire), **400 m individual medley:** Michelle Smith (Ire) **800 m freestyle:** Brooke Bennett (US) **4x100 m freestyle relay:** US, **4x100m freestyle medley:** US, **200 m breaststroke:** Penelope Heyns (South Africa)

## SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING

**Duet Final:** USA

## DIVING

**Men's springboard:** Xiong Ni (China), **Women's springboard:** Fu Mingxia (China) **Men's platform:** Dmitry Sautin (Rus) **Women's platform:** Fu Mingxia (Chn)

## TABLE TENNIS

**Men's doubles:** Kong Linghuiliu Guoliang (China), **Women's doubles:** Deng Yaping, Qiao Hong (Chn), **Men's singles:** Liu Guoliang (Chn), **Women's singles:** Deng Yaping (Chn)

## TENNIS

**Men's singles:** Andre Agassi (US), **Women's singles:** Lindsay Davenport (US), **Men's**

**doubles:** Todd Woodbridge, Mark Woodforde (Aus), **Women's doubles:** Mary Joe Fernandez, Gigi Fernandez (US)

## VOLLEYBALL

**Men:** Holland, **Women:** Cuba

## WRESTLING

### Greco Roman

**Flyweight (52 kg):** Valentin Jordanov (Bul), **Featherweight (52kg):** Tom Bronds (US), **Welterweight (74kg):** Buvaysa Saytev (Rus), **Light-heavyweight (90 kg):** Rasul Khadem Azghadi (Iran), **Heavyweight (130kg):** Mahmut Demir (Turk)

### Freestyle

**Light flyweight (48kg):** Sim Kwon-Ho (S Korea), **Flyweight (52kg):** Armen Nazaryan (Armenia), **Bantamweight (57kg):** Yuri Melnichenko (Kaza), **Featherweight (62kg):** Wlodzimierz Zawadzki (Poland), **Lightweight (68kg):** Ryszard Wolny (Poland), **Welterweight (74kg):** Feliberto Ascuy Aguilera (Cuba), **Middleweight (82kg):** Hamza Yerlikaya (Turk), **Light-heavyweight (90kg):** Vyacheslav Oleynyk (Ukr), **Mid heavyweight (100kg):** Andrzej Wronski (Poland), **Heavyweight:** Aleksandar Karelin (Rus)

## WEIGHTLIFTING

**Bantamweight (54kg):** Hali Mutlu (Turkey), **Welterweight (64kg):** Naim Suleymanoglu (Turkey), **Lightweight:** Zhang Xugang (China), **Middleweight:** Pablo Lara (Cuba), **Mid-Heavyweight (90kg):** Akakide Kakhiashvili (Greece), **Heavyweight (108kg):** Tim Talmazov (Ukr), **Super heavyweight over 108kg):** Andrey Chemerkina (Rus)

## YACHTING

**Men's 470 class:** Yevhen Braslavets, Ihor Matviyev, **Women's 470 class:** Theresa Zabell, Begona Dufresne (Spain), **Men's Soling Class:** Germany **Men's star class:** Torben Grael, Marcello Ferreira (Bra), **Finn Class:** Mateusz Kusznierewicz (Pol), **Mistral Class:** Nikolaos Kakiathanakis (Greece), **Women's Mistral Class:** Lee Lai-Shan (Hong Kong)

## FINAL MEDAL TALLY

*The following is the medals tally of first ten countries*

Country	G	S	B
United States	44	32	25
Russia	26	21	16
Germany	20	18	27
China	16	22	12
France	15	7	15
Italy	13	10	12
Australia	9	9	23
Cuba	9	8	8
Ukraine	9	2	12
South Korea	7	15	5

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# A Budget of Coalition

*The United Front had often criticised the economic policies of the previous Congress regime when out of power. Ironically, the first budget presented by it showed how hollow its criticism had been. The budget did not have anything that could be said to rectify the mistakes of the Congress. It was in fact a carbon copy budget, which endorsed the liberalisation policies with a sprinkling of social spending and infrastructural development.*

*The irony was even greater as the budget was presented by Mr P Chidambaram, a former minister of the Congress regime who had deserted his party just a few months earlier. It is doubtful that anyone had any hopes of radically different economic thinking, but if at all there were such hopes, the budget shattered them all. It proved once again that our political parties have no ideology of their own and that the only economic thinking in the country was one that suited foreign companies.*

*The budget endorsed all that the Congress stood for. Reforms would continue, though half-heartedly, as there was no fresh thrust. There was nothing in the budget that freed India's spirit from the suffocating grip of the politicians and bureaucrats. Once again, the government admitted its failure to control its spending. Once again, the economy was sought to be corrected through a change in some percentage points in taxes and excise.*

*This feature describes the provisions of the latest budget and the likely impact of the budget. But does it really bring a human face to reforms? Will it boost the social sector or even industrial growth?*

**T**HE budget of the recently installed Deve Gowda government was presented by Finance Minister Mr P. Chidambaram on July 22, 1996. It was an unexceptional budget, without any major changes in economic policy. Analysts quickly pointed out that it was a pro-reform budget and not much different from the budgets presented by the previous Congress government.

The budget could be described as soft and attempted to please everybody. There was a proposed relief in tax for the middle class, higher allocations for basic minimum needs schemes and reduction of excise duty on many goods. Resources for social sector spending were proposed to be raised

through higher tax mobilisation. A 2 per cent special customs duty on imports was introduced, as well as a minimum alternate tax on companies which had managed to remain in the zero tax bracket.

Savings were sought to be introduced through a variety of tax concessions, in-

## EFFECT OF BUDGET

### ...ON CORPORATES

Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) if profits according to Income Tax provisions is less than 30% of book profits then the taxable income is taken as 30% of book profits. Given effective corporate tax at 43% MAT works out to 12% of book profits.

Companies in power and infrastructure exempted from MAT.

Unused commercial property to be subject to Wealth Tax.

Companies can issue non-voting shares up to 25% of paid up capital.

Mutual funds and venture capital funds allowed to vote.

### ...ON FINANCIAL SECTOR

Long term capital gains reduced from 30% to 20% for DFIs.

Depreciation allowed on financial ownership of assets.

Sale and lease back of assets: written down value of asset in the hands of the lessee to be taken as cost.

### .. ON INDIVIDUALS

No change in exemption limit.

Tax rate on lowest slab of income between Rs 40,000 to 60,000 reduced from 20% to 15%.

Standard deduction increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000 for men and from Rs 18,000 to 20,000 for women.

Deduction for interest payments for housing raised from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000.

Deduction for medical insurance premium raised from Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,000.

Contribution to a new Personal-cum-family insurance scheme of GIC up to Rs 10,000 exempt from taxable income.

### . ON INFRASTRUCTURE

5 year tax holiday extended to investment in irrigation, sanitation, sewerage control.

Income of any fund dedicated in infrastructure free from income tax. Section 88 limit raised from Rs 60,000 to Rs 70,000 for investment in any infrastructure fund.

Infrastructure Development Finance Company to be set up with an authorised capital of Rs 5,000 crore. Budgetary provision of Rs 500 crore with an equal amount from the RBI.

### ..ON CAPITAL MARKET

Limit of investment by an FII in a single company increased from 5 to 10%, overall limit remains at 24%.

FIIs allowed to invest in unlisted companies.

### ..ON AGRICULTURE

State-level agricultural finance corporations to be set up.

Private sector commercial banks to be set up in rural areas.

Paid-up capital of NABARD to be raised from Rs 500 crore to Rs 1,000 crore, authorised capital to be increased to Rs 2,000 crore.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to be continued with a corpus of Rs 2,500 crore.

cluding a pension fund. To remove infrastructural bottlenecks, an infrastructure development finance company was proposed to be established with a share capital of Rs 5,000 crore. The budget had a deficit of Rs 8,924 crore.

What direction the budget would take had already become clear with the release of the updated Economic Survey report a few days earlier. It had endorsed the economic policies followed by the Congress and it became evident that there would not be any major change in the direction the country was going.

**Economic Survey:** The update of the economic survey for 1995-96, released on July 20, 1996, indicated the thrust of the budget for the year. The survey endorsed the liberalisation policies of the previous government. It said that the reforms brought about a strong recovery in the growth of production and employment and restored health of the external sector. Overall economic growth during the first four years of the Eighth Plan (1992-97) was 5.9 per cent, which was higher than the plan target of 5.6 per cent. Estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) place the GDP growth at factor cost at 7 per cent. It was the first time that a growth rate of this magnitude had been achieved without any exceptional agricultural growth. The growth rate for industry was 11.7 per cent and services 7 per cent. Inflation was down from 10.4 per cent to 4.2 per cent at the end of June, 1996.

The update indicated that reforms would be stepped up in power, road, railway, port, irrigation and telecom sectors. Investment in agriculture remained an area of concern—thus the government's greater emphasis on the rural sector. In fact, there had been a slowdown in rate of agricultural growth, inspite of normal monsoon.

The balance of payments came under pressure and though the exports remained buoyant at 21 per cent, there was a continued surge in imports.

Among the issues and priorities, the survey reiterates the policy priorities. The first is how to control the fiscal deficit and promote public savings. The second is to improve the infrastructure while the third challenge is to have a rapid labour inten-

sive growth for poverty alleviation. It is these concerns that have been highlighted in the budget.

**Infrastructure:** One of the prime beneficiaries of this year's budget is infrastructure. This was in line with the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the government, which had stated that power, telecom, roads, railways and ports had to be developed. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was allocated a commencement capital of Rs 200 crore. The plan allocation for ministry of surface transport has been increased to Rs 1,322 crore, an increase of Rs 240 crore, for enhancing national highways. Roads have been recognised as the single largest stumbling block to growth in almost every sector, ranging from tourism to urban development. The 34,000 km national highways network needs desperate enhancing. But the supernational highways project (SNH), which proposed to bring 10,000 km of virgin land under national highways at a cost of Rs 2,50,000 crore, finds no mention as the feasibility study bids were unacceptable.

An Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC), with an authorised share capital of Rs 5,000 crore, would be established. A budgetary provision of Rs 500 crore has been made, which will be matched by a similar contribution

by RBI. The IDFC will act as a direct lender, a refinancing institution and a provider of financial guarantees for infrastructure projects.

However, in the power sector, the Plan outlay has fallen to Rs 6,621 crore from Rs 6,722 crore last year. Allocation for Rural Electrification Corporation, which is the nodal agency for supplying power and installation of transmission lines in rural belts, has been cut down to Rs 50 crore from Rs 300 crore. This could indicate that the public sector power companies depend more on external commercial borrowings, but the drastic cut is against the policy of the government, which claims to be committed towards the poorer sections of society. Allocation for the Tehri Hydel Development Corporation (THDC) has also been cut from Rs 211 crore to Rs 170 crore this year. The allocation of funds last year remained largely unutilised due to the agitations in the Tehri-Uttarakhand region. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), which is developing two major projects, Vindhyachal and Kayam Kullam, gets a Plan outlay of Rs 1949.89 crore while the National Hydel Development Corporation has been allocated a Plan outlay of Rs 1,136.02 crore.

**Defence:** The defence budget for 1996-97 has been increased by a little over 8 per

#### GROWTH, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT

Sectors	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (P)	1994-95 (Q)	1995-96 (R)
<b>Annual Growth Rates in Real GDP by Sectors</b>						
1. Agriculture & Allied	3.8	-2.3	6.1	3.3	4.9	2.4
2. Industry	7.2	-1.3	4.1	4.2	8.3	11.7
3. Services	5.2	4.9	5.1	6.8	6.0	7.0
4. Gross domestic product at factor cost	5.4	0.8	5.1	5.0	6.3	7.0
<b>As percentage of GDP at Current Market Prices</b>						
5. Gross domestic savings	23.6	22.8	21.2	21.4	24.4	NA
6. Gross domestic capital formation @	27.0	23.4	23.1	21.6	25.2	NA
7. Gross fixed capital formation	23.2	22.1	22.6	21.5	22.5	NA
8. Change in stocks	2.1	0.6	1.5	-0.2	0.6	NA

P : Provisional Estimates

Q : Quick Estimates

R : Revised Advance Estimates

@ : Adjusted for errors and omissions

NA : Not Available

Note: Industry includes mining & quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply, and construction.

cent over last year's budget. Allocation is Rs 27,798 crore against Rs 25,500 crore last year. Since the revised estimates of defence expenditure were Rs 26,879 crore, the real increase is only Rs 919 crore, about 3 per cent. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has severely criticised this allocation and it says that it will affect our defence preparedness.

**Safety nets for the poor:** The social sector gets higher allocations in the 1996 budget. An additional allocation of Rs 2,466 crore for minimum basic services programme and Rs 1,200 crore increase in fundings to the social sector have been announced. A number of schemes have been introduced to provide "social safety nets" to vulnerable sections of the society.

Two new insurance schemes have been announced for the middle class and poor. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) will start Jeevan Suraksha, which will provide a monthly pension of Rs 3,500 crore after the age of 60 for a monthly premium of Rs 250 for 30 years. The second scheme, Jan Arogya, will be started by General Insurance Corporation (GIC) and will provide medical insurance cover of Rs 20,000 a year to a family of four for an annual premium of Rs 240. For an individual, the cover will be Rs 5,000 for an annual premium of Rs 70. The maximum insurance cover under the Medicare policy has been raised to Rs 3 lakh from Rs 83,000.

An increase of Rs 1,189 crore has been proposed for the social sector. State governments have been entrusted to carry out most of the social sector schemes. The Central government will provide Rs 2,466 crore to States to implement the United Front's basic minimum services programmes in 7 areas: drinking water, shelter for homeless, road connections to remote areas, primary education, mid-day meal scheme, public distribution system and rural health care centres.

The other major social safety nets include:

1. Ex-gratia payment of Rs 50,000 each to families of truck and bus drivers who die in road accidents.

2. Residential facilities for *hamal* (workers carrying loads) are to be set up with a budgetary support of Rs 5 crore.

3. Old age homes and residential pri-

mary schools for poor children with a support of Rs 5 crore.

4. Setting up of women development corporations and training-cum-production centres for destitute women.

5. A national illness assistance fund with an initial corpus of Rs 5 crore.

**Social sector:** Allocation for education has shot up from Rs 1,825 crore to Rs 3,388 for 1996-97, which is 3.86 per cent of the total budget allocation. Two major basic education programmes that will benefit are the district primary education programme and the mid-day meal scheme.

While the budget for health has gone up from Rs 647 crore to Rs 792 crore, the budget for family welfare has shrunk from Rs 1,581 crore to Rs 1,535 crore, while that for Indian systems of medicine remains static at Rs 23 crore. People suffering from AIDS get a special tax deduction of Rs 15,000. Donations to the National Illness Assistance Fund, National Councils of Blood Transfusion and other such funds are made tax exempt. Allocation for

women and child development has increased to Rs 847 crore from Rs 730 crore. Women's development corporations would be established, as well as training-cum-production centres for destitute women. Allocation for Integrated Child Development Scheme has been raised from Rs 588 crore to Rs 682 crore.

**Agriculture:** The plan allocation for agriculture has been increased by Rs 125 crore to Rs 2,831 crore in 1996-97, besides increasing allocations by over Rs 5,000 crore to agriculture and irrigation sectors to bring an additional 100,000 hectares under irrigation within the next few years. Irrigation and flood control has been significantly enhanced from Rs 249 crore to Rs 1,267 crore this year. A new Rs 800 crore scheme will accelerate the completion of major irrigation projects, each costing Rs 1,000 crore and implemented by various State governments. For other irrigation projects, an additional Rs 100 crore will be allotted this year. Rural development has been allocated Rs 7,520 crore as against Rs 7,137 crore in

## BUDGET AT A GLANCE

	1994-95 Actuals	95-96 BE	95-96 BE	1996-97 BE
1. Revenue Receipts	91083	100787	110191	130345
2. Tax Revenue (Net to Centre)	67454	74374	81088	97310
3. Non-Tax Revenue	23629	26413	29103	33035
4. Capital Receipts	68695	66364	65213	67737
5. Recoveries of Loans	6345	6730	7411	7048
6. Other Receipts	5607	7000	1392	5001
7. Borrowings and other liabilities	56743	52634	56410	55688
8. Total Receipts (1+4)	159778	167151	175404	198082
9. Non-Plan Expenditure	113361	123651	134320	149975
10. On Revenue Account	93847	106998	113099	128353
Of which				
11. Interest Payments	44049	52000	52000	60000
12. On Capital Account	19514	16653	21221	21622
13. Plan Expenditure	47378	48500	48684	54885
14. On Revenue Account	28265	29330	30423	33467
15. On Capital Account	19113	19170	18261	21218
16. Total Expenditure (9+13)	160739	172151	183004	204660
17. Revenue Expenditure (10+14)	122112	136328	143522	161820
18. Capital Expenditure (12+15)	38627	35823	39482	42840
19. Revenue Deficit (1-17)	31029	35541	33331	31475
20. Budgetary Deficit (8-16)	961	5000	7600	6578
21. Fiscal Deficit [(1+5+6)-16=7+20]	57704	57634	64010	62266
Fiscal Deficit adjusted for Small Savings Loans to State & Union				
22. Territory Governments	48374	50634	53898	51266
23. Primary Deficit (21-11)	13655	5634	12010	2266



1995-96.

Allocation to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been increased by Rs 2,500 crore to provide loans to State governments to complete medium and minor irrigation, soil conservation and watershed management projects.

Subsidy on urea has not been reduced. The excise duty on tractors has been reduced and the subsidy of Rs 30,000 given on each tractor has been extended to all categories. The subsidy scheme is to be extended to cover power tillers bought for cereal production. The subsidy on sprinkler irrigation systems has also been increased from 50 to 70 per cent and the ceiling raised to Rs 25,000 from Rs 15,000 per hectare. Some categories like marginal farmers and scheduled castes will get 90 per cent subsidy to buy sprinkler irrigation systems.

State-level agricultural development finance institutions have been proposed to be set up to promote investment in commercial and high technology agriculture and allied activities such as horticulture, floriculture and agro-processing. The government also plans to set up small, local area banks, each covering 2-3 districts, to boost investments in the rural sector.

**Public Sector:** The government has fixed a disinvestment target of Rs 5,000 crore for the year. This is lower by Rs 2,000 crore against last year's target but the previous government had managed to raise only Rs 168 crore through disinvestments in 1995-96. It remains to be seen how sincere this government is as far as disinvestment in the public sector is concerned. Three loss-making PSUs are to be revived, Bharat Yantra Nigam, Bharat Bhari Udyog and Hindustan Paper Corporation. A sum of Rs 449 crore has been provided for to write off their outstanding interest and other liabilities.

A fund would be created for PSUs from the disinvestment, for strengthening them. A disinvestment commission is also to be set up to oversee the sale of public sector shares.

**Industry:** The budget tried to be investor-friendly. The list of industries qualifying for automatic approval for foreign

investment is to be expanded. Companies that default in payment of loan instalments and interest will be debarred from floating new deposit schemes. The Finance Minister announced amending the Companies Act, 1956, to allow for non-voting shares upto 25 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company. This meets a demand of the industry and will prevent takeover of companies.

Small scale industry too gets its due. The Small Industries Development Bank (SIDBI) will refinance State financial corporations and banks for modernisation projects upto Rs 50 lakh. It will also provide refinance to lending institutions.

**Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT):** What the industry hated in the budget was the introduction of the MAT. The idea is to bring certain zero tax companies to pay tax. Section 115JA imposes tax on companies which have no taxable income. The old Section 115J was abolished in 1990 and is now to be reintroduced in the modified form. According to this section, if the income disclosed by a company is less than 30 per cent of its book profits, then this 30 per cent of book profits would be taxable. Some 1000 companies will be brought in the tax net and will pay an effective tax of 12 per cent. Predictably, the industry is not pleased. The Sensex crashed, and there was a volley of protests from industrialists. The top tax payer under MAT will be Steel Authority of India (Rs 159 crore) followed by Reliance (Rs 156.63 crore).

**Reactions:** Though the budget tried to please all, there were reservations not only among the opposition but also among the government's allies. The BJP felt it had no direction, but the Congress was happy that its reforms policy had not been tampered with. The Left parties felt that more could have been done and that Mr Chidambaram had tried to make nobody unhappy.

To be fair, the Finance Minister did a neat balancing act, caught as he was in a coalition of varied interests. But, the budget was disappointing since it was not very different from the path India has tread for many years. Where, for instance, was the commitment to reduce government spending? In spite of making noises, even the new government lacked the courage to do any-

thing about its grossly misused facilities by those in power. Instead, the Finance Minister appointed more committees to look into various aspects and make recommendations.

The minimum alternate tax was a welcome step, since many companies, including public sector ones, do not pay tax in spite of making huge profits. People criticised the tax because of selfish motives, but there could be no moral justification to let such a state of affairs to continue. The budget, however, did not make any provisions to be strict with defaulters.

Mr Chidambaram stuck to reforms but was more anxious to stick to the *status quo*. There was no fresh thrust: privatisation of insurance was delayed once again in spite of recommendations of the Malhotra Committee. Nor did reform touch the agricultural sector. One of the major weaknesses of the reform process is that it is skewed towards the rich. For example, while the rich can buy the smart cellular phones and pagers, it still takes an ordinary man years to get a new telephone connection or even to get an old one transferred. When will reform touch the ordinary man? Unfortunately, this year's budget too ignores this serious shortcoming.

Indian industry thus finds that the budget is made for the multinationals. The economic policy pronouncements favour the foreign companies more than Indian companies. This is a major drawback that Mr Chidambaram is carrying forward from the Congress thinking. He has done nothing to break out of the destructive policies symbolised by Mr Manmohan Singh. The industry has called it "retrograde, directionless and anti-growth" and there is increasing unhappiness about the economic thinking today.

Will this be rectified in the future? Analysts say that next year Mr Chidambaram will present a bolder budget, if the government does not fall by then. But there is no denying that an opportunity has been lost. A government that claims to be for the poor has pushed with anti-poor policies and tried to make cosmetic changes such as providing a little reduction in personal tax. It is doubtful that many people are fooled by such measures.



## ARTICLE

# Development of Infrastructure in India

*Infrastructure sector is of utmost importance to any developing economy. It forms the backbone of the entire developmental framework in the economy. A country with a strong and well-developed infrastructure is not likely to face any bottlenecks on the road to rapid development. This realisation has assumed importance in the Indian context, during the past few years of economic reforms and liberalisation. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has picked up in India during the process of reforms, but in absolute terms FDI of \$ 2 billion during 1995-96 in India is no match to the FDI of \$ 18 billion in China during the same year. One of the factors responsible for low FDI in India has been a poorly developed infrastructure in the country.*

### Government's Responsibility

**I**N India, development of infrastructure is coterminous with the overall growth of the economy in general and with the industrial growth in particular. Indian economy was badly shattered by the second World War and the partition. After independence the government took refuge to what is called "Nehruvian" concept of economic development. Heavy reliance was placed on industrialisation which, in turn, was heavily dependent on the public sector. As it was not possible to provide funds separately for development of infrastructure, an additional objective of development of economic and other infrastructure was also given to the public sector. After a fairly good beginning, the public sector gradually became lethargic and its performance was hampered by several factors, including excessive interference from the government, lack of accountability, lack of professionalism, low

productivity, over-staffing and extremely poor financial performance. It was also realised that the government's ability to undertake heavy investment in infrastructure is severely constrained and hence it was considered necessary to infuse heavy private investment in this crucial sector.

Despite several measures taken by the government in recent years, to encourage private investment in the infrastructure sector, public sector is likely to continue to play an important role in development of infrastructure. Infrastructure is marked by long gestation periods, heavy investment and relatively low returns. Under such a scenario it is apprehended that private capital may remain shy, notwithstanding attractive tax reliefs and incentives offered by the government.

However, public sector needs to take necessary steps to improve its performance in today's highly competitive environment. While paying direct attention to the infrastructure, the government must also continue to pursue its policy of reforms in public sector, as it would supplement government's efforts of improving the infrastructure. Policy of disinvestment to a limited extent, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) system, reducing the excessive manpower and improving the financial performance are some of the important measures which can ensure rapid development of infrastructure by the public sector enterprises.

### Recent Measures

**S**EVERAL measures have been taken by the government recently to encourage private investment in the infrastructure sector. A package to attract private invest-

ment in the power sector was announced by the government which included various incentives like reduction of import duty by 20 per cent on power equipment, a five-year tax holiday for new power projects, a guarantee of 16 per cent rate of return on paid up and subscribed capital and a provision of counter-guarantees by the Central government for a few "fast track" power projects.

The Petroleum sector has also witnessed some reforms. The government has allowed import and distribution of some petroleum products, like LPG, LSHS (Low Sulphur Heavy Stock) and Kerosene, by the private sector, at market prices, to stimulate operational efficiency and new investment. Two per cent equity of ONGC has been disinvested and more is likely to be disinvested during the years to come. Area of oil exploration and production has been thrown open to the private and foreign companies in joint ventures with the ONGC and Oil India Ltd (OIL). Even in the production of lubricants, private and foreign investment has been allowed.

Air Corporation Act of 1994 has facilitated the setting up of several private air taxi services. During the year 1994-95 six air taxi operators were granted the scheduled airline status. In the department of communications, the new National Telecom Policy has opened up the telecom sector for private participation in basic telecom services and allowed foreign equity upto 49 per cent. In postal services too, the government has sacrificed its monopoly status by allowing the private sector to enter into the distribution of postal stationery on commission basis.

Several measures have been initiated

to promote private participation in the field of construction and maintenance of roads. Now investors in the road sector are eligible to seek funding from the financial institutions. The provisions of MRTTP have been relaxed to enable the large firms to enter the field of road construction. The National Highway Act has also been amended to facilitate levy of a toll on the users of the road. Various modifications/relaxations have also been introduced by Railways and ports, allowing private participation.

## Financing Blues

**T**HE performance of the infrastructure sector, however, leaves much to be desired. During the next five years (1997-2002), as per one projection, heavy investments are required in power, roads and telecom sectors. Additional capacity requirement of power during this period is projected at 57,000 MW, which requires a private investment to the tune of Rs 1,70,000 crore. Road transport also needs equally heavy investment during this period and the requirement of finances for construction of new roads, upgradation of existing National Highways, increasing the lanes and construction of express-ways is expected to require an exorbitant sum of Rs 1,50,000 crore. Similarly, going by the current demand and other trends, requirement for basic services and public sector would be to the tune of Rs 70,000 crore. In other words, the requirement of investment in three sectors of power, telecom and roads itself is as high as Rs 3,90,000 crore.

Infrastructure sector has a long gestation period and lower profitability, atleast in the short run. For example, a road project has a very long gestation period of about 10 years, a horizon which is beyond the capacity of any term lending institution. While infrastructure is considered to be the latest sensation in the liberalised Indian economy, the main problem which this sector is likely to face is of financing. From the traditional point of view, most of the financial institutions may find these infrastructure projects unviable. Emergence of new concept of financing for the power, transport and oil sec-

tors, therefore, was inevitable.

Recently, the World Bank collaborated with the government of India to extend a \$ 200 million loan for Infrastructure Leasing and Financial services. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is also planning to lend \$ US 600 million to financial development institutions, including ICICI, SCICI and IFCI. These funds are primarily meant for lending to the private infrastructure projects. But, considering the total requirement of funds these amounts are just peanuts.

In addition to lack of adequate funding and financing facilities to the private investors in the infrastructure sector, another dampner is the high risk profile of infrastructure projects. This sector is characterised by a very high risk at the beginning, which starts coming down in the later stages. Being long term in nature, infrastructure projects run into serious construction period risks like cost and time over-runs. Even when the project is completed, the demand for the services/facility provided may come down drastically due to many reasons. Foreign exchange and interest rates fluctuations also pose danger to these projects. The cost over-runs cannot be passed on to the consumers, as in most of the cases government monitors and controls the prices of products and services provided by the infrastructure sector. Last, but certainly not the least, is the political risk. Inadequate clarity of government policy on the one hand and change of government and its policy in the long-run on the other, is bound to leave such projects high and dry.

## Future Outlook

**T**HERE are no two views that infrastructure plays a vital role in accelerating the pace of economic development. Any slippage in providing adequate infrastructure would hamper the developmental process. To illustrate, the government of India wants to achieve the total exports to the tune of \$ 75 billion by turn of the century. To handle the huge quantum of goods for exports and an equal quantum of import of goods, Indian ports need to be modernised and equipped with adequate

capacities to handle the said volume. New ports may also be required to be built. In addition, Indian Railways and road transport must prepare itself to handle such a huge volume of goods to and from the ports. Adequate storage and warehousing facilities are required. At the same time, either the existing lending institutions will have to prepare themselves to meet the increased credit demands or, a new credit set up may be required to be promoted by the government. This is an example of only one of the developmental targets. Similarly all the targets require to be matched by the infrastructural capacities. The inter-linkages are so strong that it does not allow any complacency.

In the years to come there is a need to pump in huge amounts of funds in the infrastructural sector. With the role of public sector diluted by the process of structural reforms, a lot of private investment needs to be encouraged. In unduly long-run projects, where the financial institutions may not come forward to lend adequate funds and the profitability is also low, the private capital may be shy to come forward. The high risk profile of the projects may further dissuade the private investors who are generally attracted by the profit motive and quick returns. The government, therefore, not only needs to encourage the private investors by providing more incentives, but also needs to ensure that the adequate finances at reasonable interest rates are available to them so that the infrastructure sector is able to meet the tough challenges which lie ahead.

Government may also have to indemnify the losses due to demand risks, operating risks, political risks and financial risks. Unless there is an adequate risk sharing by the government, the private capital may continue to flow into less risky, more profitable and quick yielding projects. Although, in absolute terms, public sector may have failed to deliver goods as per the expectations, there is no denying that the nation owes most of the existing infrastructure to the public sector. Even in future, public sector may have to play a major role in this field.

## DEBATE; DISCUSSION

# Should India Participate in the Olympics?

*Every four years Indian sportsmen put up a pathetic display at the Olympics games. Well-meaning people ask why we cannot, in our huge population, produce one athlete of world standards. But the questions are soon forgotten and we turn back to our mediocrity in sports as soon as the games end.*

*Though our performance at international events is a national embarrassment, not a thought is spared as to how we can improve. Rather than make a spectacle of the country, would it not be better to acquire some expertise and then send a team that stands a respectable chance of winning? Or should we send sportsmen who begin to over-eat once they are abroad and are declared unfit to compete when their event is to begin? What is the justification of sending an Olympic team consisting of more officials and doctors than sportsmen?*

*As the Indian team returns after putting up a sorry show once again at the Olympics, we debate the question what should be done and whether India should refrain from entering international competitions until its performance reaches reasonable standards.*

**Mr A** Once again India has been unsuccessful in the Olympics. But I think that it is rather unfair that we should condemn our sportsmen. In games, it is the spirit that is more important, the spirit of participating rather than winning alone. I would say that India should definitely participate in the Olympics. What will be our image in the world if we do not even compete? True, we do not win medals, but participation does at least ensure that we are exposed to international standards. Rather than condemning our

sportsmen, we should provide facilities to them so that they can improve their performance. I think that it has to be tackled on a war footing. If we start now, we can be well-prepared for the next Olympics, which are to be held in Sydney.

**Mr B** I disagree to what you are saying. Today, it is not enough to just participate in international events. One must play to win. We have shown enough spirit already by participating so many times but what is the point if we are not able to win anything? Every time we go for such events, we come back empty handed. What purpose does that serve? Surely the image of India does not improve merely by participating. On the other hand, it deteriorates further as the world sees India's good-for-nothing contingent everytime. If participation is what is needed, India should send one or two athletes as a token participation. There is no point in sending sub-standard athletes who cannot win anything. The fact is that we are not good at any sport, nor are we competitive enough. Ironically, our country spends a lot of effort in making the athletes look good. The contingent went armed with clothes by a leading fashion designer. The emphasis unfortunately is on looking good than performing. I am sure that the world laughs at the show we put up. What good does such participation do? We should be spared the national humiliation and not send a team to Sydney in 2000 merely for participation. If our performance is not good enough, let us put up a token presence only.

**Mr C** I fully agree with you. It is embarrassing when statistics are quoted to show that India is at the bottom of the list in terms of medals won compared to the huge population we have. China, with a greater population than ours, is better off. Even then, our performance would have been forgivable if we had been good in any other field. But, India has lost out in all fields. At the same time, scandals have broken out with alarming regularity. Our image in the world is that we are a soft State with no real competitive spirit, where every person is a master of corruption. The Olympics show our weakness as a nation. To add insult to injury, our country sends a large number of officials, journalists and coaches. What is the point of their going at all? Everybody sees it as a free trip abroad. The emphasis is on having a good time. It is no wonder that one of our wrestlers began to over-eat when he went to Atlanta and was disqualified for being overweight. Winning is not important for them, having a good time is. Let us not make the same mistake at Sydney.

**Mr A** But it is not the player's fault. There are no facilities in India nor is there professional coaching. So why blame the poor players? In other countries, sports is given importance and players can practise without having to earn a living. But in our country, that is not the case. Instead of condemning the players let us build facilities and give full support to them. Only then will they be fit to compete in the interna-

tional arena. Not participating is not the answer. Doing something about the problem is the answer.

**Mr D** I would not like to condemn the players but there is no denying the fact that they have been a source of embarrassment. Before you begin to complain of lack of facilities in India, I would like to say that this time there was no lack of facilities. In hockey, and even in other games, the best facilities were provided. This time, according to Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association Randhir Singh, the preparations were quite satisfactory. The teams received enough international exposure as they were sent abroad for training and to see the competition. Sponsors like Citibank and AT&T paid for clothing, kits and diet money. It was reported that the sponsors paid \$ 1,000 per participant towards diet allowance, which is not a small sum by any measure. What more can you want? Facilities and money are not a problem any longer. Let us accept that we are just not good enough, that we have not kept pace with the changing technology and the highly competitive world of international sports. Let us not take recourse to excuses and accept the facts. These are that we lack the skills and stamina to compete. We are happy doing other things.

**Mr E** I think we should accept our limitations. Instead of being humiliated every four years, we have to see whether an athlete is capable or not. It would be better to stop participating till the time we reach nearabout international standards. Khushwant Singh has written that our people are largely vegetarian and brought up in a hot and humid climate. They can never stand up to bigger and more powerfully built meat-eating people. So we should not waste time and money trying to compete for medals in events where strength is involved. But what stops us from developing those games where

agility and skill count more? We can certainly come up to standards in games like badminton, table tennis, archery, shooting and gymnastics. We can take the example of China and other countries where players are selected right from school and given intensive training. Moreover, the Western countries have far superior technology which our sportsmen cannot match. The State has to come forward in such a situation and make investments to improve the level of sports. If this cannot be done, then let's stop participating and save ourselves from national disgrace everytime. Let us accept after all that, without winning it is all useless.

**Mr A** You are equating everything with winning. Why don't you appreciate the effort put in by our sportsmen? And that too when Indian sports is managed by officials whose knowledge about sports is generally below average. There is so much politics that any sportsman must be a politician to be included in the team. Facilities may have improved over the years but then money cannot buy medals. We should remove politics from games. I also agree with your idea that we should select people right from school and give them intensive coaching. But for that a strong

political will is needed. Only if we have a good minister who is committed to sports that some good can happen. Unfortunately, our ministers are so involved in scams that they never have time to do anything for the country. Usually, the minister in charge of these things is an insignificant politician who is not interested. I cannot, for example, even remember the name of our sports minister. So if there is no political will, nothing seriously can be done about our Olympic performance.

**Mr B** You are now giving a reason why we should stop participating in Olympics. If you say that there is too much politics and the minister is not bothered, why should we participate? This is what we have been saying all along. The thing is that politics and government support are mere excuses. An athlete in our country will have to overcome these hurdles and that is unfortunately the fact of life. Unless we are able to throw out the officials and bureaucrats, we have to live with that reality. Since that is not likely to happen in the near future, all we can say is that we stop participating till the time we build our capability. Let us not use Olympics as a means of sending officials on trips abroad.

#### Sponsors for the Indian team

Never before has so much money been procured for the Indian Olympics team. The following are the sponsors for the team and what they footed.

**AT&T:** An incentive of \$ 1,000 for all athletes.

**Citibank:** Award for every individual medal winner: gold Rs 5 lakh; silver Rs 3 lakh, bronze Rs 1 lakh. For team events: Rs 15, 10 and 5 lakh respectively.

**Reebok:** Kits and clothing for the Indian hockey team.

**Nike:** Sports apparel for the entire Indian contingent.

The dress of the Indian contingent was designed by fashion designer Ritu Beri.

Was this money and effort wasted? The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) made sure that some of the money was channelled to activities other than sports. It took a large contingent to Atlanta, including some people not cleared by the Sports Ministry. The contingent included a former public relations manager of JCT and families of influential people who are unknown in sports circles. A former hockey coach, now settled in Germany, was included, as were several other people who went as guests of the organising committee. On the other hand, many sportsmen were not included. Some of the Indian sportsmen were stranded in the US, where Air India refused to arrange their transport from the John F. Kennedy Airport.

# MBA: Getting Ready for the Course

*If any career has been hyped up in recent times, it is the MBA. Everyone thinks that it is a ticket to high salaries and perquisites and that multinational companies will compete among each other to give a job to a fresh MBA. "Had three job offers, rejected two!" says the advertisement of a correspondence course promising to get candidates in this high flying career. Salary surveys in magazines, which talk of five figure earnings of young MBAs, are enough to turn anybody's head.*

*The result of this hype is that students across the country are pushed by peer pressure and parents into this course. The letters received by the Competition Master regarding this course also indicate that the average student along with the average engineer, architect and doctor in the country is trying for this lucrative career*

*In this two part article, we look at what really to expect during and after the course. The first part describes what students can expect during the course while the second part, which will be carried next month, will describe the expectation of companies when they hire fresh MBAs. The high salaries are not without risks. The article will guide MBA aspirants about their prospects and expectations so that they can prepare accordingly for the career ahead. It will also answer some frequently asked questions about the MBA.*

Ask any MBA aspirant why he wants to do MBA and the answers follow predictable lines. Everyone wants to work in a multinational company and earn a fat salary, or is preparing for it since friends are into it. Few actually know what to expect from the profession. Almost everybody talks of a cousin or friend who has made it big in some company or the other.

It is no wonder that the average student and even people in other professions and jobs have caught the MBA bug. When making money has become the central objective of life, who wants to be stuck in a career that offers less?

Lack of information and counselling results in young people applying in hordes whether they have the aptitude or not, and the mushrooming of sub-standard institutes catering to the demand, which provide MBA degrees that can only be described as worthless. Very often, a person finds that the MBA degree does not get the promised job in the multinational and frustrations arise. Moreover, if every MBA were to be taken by the multinationals, who would work for the Indian companies, some of which are as good as, or even better, than any multinational?

## The Management Education Scenario

Management education in the country can roughly be divided into four groups. At the top are the reputed institutes and

some university departments which have maintained the high quality of their education. The second rung institutes are those started by industrial houses, which offer some surety of a job after the course. The third rung are university departments which have not been able to impart quality education but can provide jobs in regional industrial groups. The fourth rung are those institutes which have neither the advantage of low fees of a university nor the backing of an industrial house. In recent times, a number of academics, retired people, politicians and others have started such institutes which remain essentially money making devices.

Which institutes should one, apply for? Obviously, the competition for the top institutes is great, since everybody wants to do the MBA from one. There is no surety of getting in. It is, therefore, better to spread risks and apply for institutes which are lower down also. One should not apply to many of them, since each application costs about Rs 1,000 and applying to all would mean spending a small fortune. Depending on one's ability and confidence, one should select one or two institutes from each group and apply accordingly. Of course, the prospects and jobs decrease as one goes down to the lower rung institutes.

Students also have a problem in assessing an institute. There are several yardsticks available and one should not go by the beautifully printed prospectus that they have. Some important considerations are: whether the institute has a permanent faculty and whether the faculty is professionally qualified. Many institutes depend on contractual, part time faculty members. The commitment of the part-time teacher is never total. Others depend on researcher-type teachers who have no idea how real businesses operate. What is required, instead, are people who have a practical orientation and experience.

One should also check which jobs the institute is able to get for its graduates. Usually, some students get good jobs using their own contacts, which the institute then prints in its prospectus. It is important to see how industry rates the institute.

Unfortunately, the student has no way of getting this information. There is no rating agency and each institute makes tall claims about its degree. The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) has given its approval to many institutes without going into their merits. This has caused great problems for students who have no yardstick to go by except the AICTE approval, which does not mean a thing. The situation is further complicated by the fact that some are worthless institutes; recently some of them have been sent notices by the MRTI. Such institutes not only

have very high fee, but use the 'NRI Quota' to circumvent the law on donations and only take in students who can pay more. The degrees awarded by them are quite useless.

### Training for the corporate world

But these are not questions that bother the MBA aspirant. Clearing the entrance test and joining the course are the immediate hurdles and it is commonly believed that once a person gets in, he will most certainly become an MBA. Contrasted with courses for Chartered Accountant or Company Secretary, where some people get caught in the trap of repeating groups of papers, the MBA is a safe option.

Not surprisingly, the sense of achievement in the MBA student is very high. The course becomes one huge ego trip. Many students do not spend as much time on their training as they should, thinking that the MBA stamp will take them through jobs. This is only partially true. No company takes a person for his label alone, but for what he can contribute. The MBA is chosen for his professionalism and his training, his skills and his ability to manage. The two years of training are therefore best spent in acquiring these skills.

How are these skills acquired? First, it requires gathering knowledge and insight. Many students are used to their undergraduate classes where notes are made and some questions are mugged up near the exams, which is enough to see them through. The management course is unlike any of those courses. Application of knowledge and not mere bookish knowledge is required. That is why the good institutes lay emphasis on case discussions and group assignments.

The student must learn everything that may be required in business situations. A good personality should be developed. Unfortunately, many lower-rung institutes and university departments do not have facilities for personality development or teachers trained in group methods. The result is a stunted MBA which no good company would like to touch. It is thus important to do the course from a reputed institute.

The bad institutes do not insist on hard work simply because they are not committed. There is emphasis on partying and having a good time. Many institutes in Delhi and elsewhere are known for such activities. To hide their shortcomings, they have collaborations with fancy sounding foreign universities and introduce exotic courses like yoga, spiritualism and "Eastern Management". One institute advertises a golf course and swimming pool on its campus. The corporate sector is usually not impressed by such gimmicks.

Many students come to grief when they find that their expensive diplomas are not good enough to get them jobs. In many institutes, the toppers get the good jobs but the average students have to accept lower offers. Youngsters who believe that merely the MBA label is a ticket to the good life face serious adjustment problems and frequent change of jobs. The MBA, in fact, should be treated only as a time to prepare for the corporate world.

### Qualities to be acquired

A good institute, on the other hand, puts pressure on the students to be on their toes and updated in their subjects at all times. Graduates report that in certain semesters they get very little sleep, so hard is the pressure to perform. Tests are announced at the last moment when the students are preparing to sleep, so that a person must be updated in all subjects at all times. Case studies enhance the applicability of concepts and theory to real life situations. This results in a person acquiring professional competence. Ultimately, the MBA must be seen as preparation for entry into the corporate sector.

A competitive spirit must also be developed. A corporate career is not one for comfortable jobs and the sooner a person acquires the competitive spirit, the better off he will be.

Since any job in a company will require a person to make presentations and to convince others, a person must learn presentation skills and be a natural leader. Ability to take good decisions under pressure is also required. Many skills, such as quantitative analysis, are learnt from books but analysis of business situations is also required. This is done through case studies.

The summer training is another method of using the knowledge in real life situations. The training should be used as an opportunity to prove oneself and some meaningful work should be done. Professional competence is rewarded when the summer training results in an offer of a permanent job on completion of the degree. In this way, many students find jobs during their summer training, much before the actual completion of their course.

A student must keep a level head even though everybody he meets says that clearing the entrance test was a big achievement. The real achievement is to come after two years when jobs are required. The years in the institute should be utilised to learn the skills in the best possible way. If the student is not busy enough, the MBA degree will be worthless even though it may have a fancy name.

### Managing Expectations

One of the myths that students have is that they will become senior managers the moment they complete the MBA. Certain companies have found that expectations and ambitions of MBAs are difficult to meet and they have taken policy decisions not to hire fresh MBAs. Though the MBA is a coveted degree, it becomes important to keep a level head and keep one's expectations low. According to the hype, an MBA is a senior manager, but fresh MBAs are usually taken at the level of management trainees. Initially, some low and tedious work may have to be done.

If a student is not reconciled to this, frustrations are bound to arise. Job hopping is common, which ultimately hurts the career of the youngster. Further, the company too has its expectations from the management graduate to whom it is paying a high salary. The second part of the article will describe what is expected of the MBA in a company. Somewhere, the expectations have to be reconciled for the high growth career of management to be a success.

# ADMISSION ALERT

## The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

*This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.*

### Aeronautical Engineering

**Diplomas in Aeronautical Engineering** (5 years) Eligibility Class 12 with minimum 60% marks. Last date August 30, 1996. Apply to Indian Institute of Aeronautical Engineering, 179 Kalidas Road, Dehradun - 248 001 with a DD of Rs 100.

### Archival Studies

**Diploma in Archival Studies** (1 year) Eligibility MA History with minimum 50% marks. Apply to Director General of Archives, National Archives of India, School of Archival Studies, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 with a DD of Rs 40.

### Astronomy and Astrophysics

**Research Scholars in Experimental Astronomy** Eligibility M Sc in Physics or Astronomy with first class. Last date August 26, 1996. Apply to Establishment Officer, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Mumbai - 400 005.

### Aviation

**Bachelor of Aviation** Apply to Campus Abroad, Vijaya Complex, 5th floor, Asiad Colony, Anna Nagar West, Madras - 600 101.

### Banking

**Officers in Grade B, Reserve Bank of India** Eligibility First class bachelor's degree and age between 21-26 years. Written test: October 27, 1996. Apply in the prescribed format to Dy General Manager, RBI Services Board, Hong Kong Bank Bldg, MG Road, Mumbai - 400 001 with a DD of Rs 50.

### Distance Learning

**Diploma in Personnel Management and IR** Last date August 20, 1996. Apply to Institute of Personnel Management and Industrial Relations, SCO 268 Sector 35D, Chandigarh - 160 022 with a DD of Rs 120.

### Environmental Sciences

**M.Sc (Hons) in Environmental Sciences** Eligibility B.Sc/M.Sc with minimum 50% marks. Entrance test in general science and environmental aptitude. Apply to Registrar, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar with a DD of Rs 75.

### Interior Design

**1 Diploma in Interior Design** Eligibility Class 12. Apply to Van Treight Institute of Interior Design, 17 Gaushala Road, Chattarpur Temple Road, Satbari, New Delhi with a DD of Rs 200.

**2 National Diploma Course in Interior Design (Jenson & Nicholson)** (1 year) Apply to Exterior-Interiors, F-49 Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110 019.

### Journalism

**Diploma in Journalism** (9 months) Eligibility Graduate with minimum 50% marks, age below 26 years and a flair for writing. Apply to Deputy Director, Times Centre for Media Studies, 10 Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110 002 with an essay on "The Press Scenario in India in 2000" and a statement on what attracts you to journalism.

### Management

**1 Master in Management Studies** Eligibility Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Written test: September 8, 1996. Last date August 23, 1996. Apply to Chairman Admission Committee, School of Management Studies, MNR Engineering College, Allahabad with a DD of Rs 120.

**2 MBA (2 years)** Eligibility Graduate with 50% marks. Apply to National Institute of Human Resources Development, 151 Santhome High Road, Madras - 600 004.

**3 PGDBM (2 years)** Eligibility Graduate with 50% marks. Written test: August 28, 1996. Last date August 20, 1996. Apply to Registrar, Institute of Management Studies, Roorkee-Delhi Road, Roorkee - 247 667 with a DD of Rs 350.

### MBA from Abroad

**1 MBA (3 years)** Courses start in January, June and September. Apply to West London College, 815 Avon House, 360 Oxford Street, London W1N 0LD, England.

**2 MBA (18 months)** Apply to TSM Business School, Netherlands. Tel: 0031-053-4898009. Fax: 0031-053-4339147, 4894848.

### Navy

**Matric Entry Recruits MER Batch 1/97** Eligibility Matric with minimum 55% marks. Last date: August 31, 1996. Apply in the specified format to Recruitment Cell, DPMR, Naval HQ, Sena Bhawan, DHQ PO, New Delhi - 110 011.

### Public Service

**Section Officers/Stenographers Exam** To be held on December 20, 1996. Last date: September 9, 1996. Apply to Secretary, UPSC, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi - 110 011 with MO for Rs 2.

### Quality Management

**PG Diploma in Quality Management** (1 year) Eligibility Masters degree in Science, Commerce or Management. Last date: September 30, 1996. Apply to Dr A.K. Srivastava, Mathematics Block, University of Lucknow, Lucknow with a DD of Rs 350.

### Scholarships

**1 Intake Scholarship** Eligibility Graduates, 19-30 years, unmarried and resident of India. Last date: August 30, 1996. Apply to Intake Foundation, PO Box 2108, Delhi - 110 007 with a self-addressed stamped envelope (10x23) with Rs 2 stamps.

**2 German Academic Exchange Fellowships** Subject Fields: Engineering and Technology. Age Limit: 32 years. Apply on the prescribed format to Ministry of Human Resource Development External Scholarship Division, A-1/W3, Curzon Road Barracks, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001.



## PARAGRAPH-WRITING

# Model Paragraphs

### **"We learn from our mistakes".**

We live to learn not only from the errors of others but also from our own mistakes. In fact our existence and the activities associated with it, is a telling tale of trials and errors. Unless we make mistakes, analyse them and draw proper lessons, we cannot hope to make a mark on the shifting sands of time. It does not matter if the niche that we carve for ourselves out of the debris of mistakes is small and silent. What signifies the most is that we have learnt to improve our performance. Past mistakes are like the writing on the wall that keep us on our toes lest we fumble and fall on our faces. Of all the species that are born and bred on this earth, only human beings have been gifted with brain, reason and the power to sift chaff from grain, emotions from excellence. Those who are given to flexibility of approach and attitude towards their own mistakes and do not fall victims to their inflated ego or blurred vision, never fail to learn where and how the things went wrong in the past. Confession and caution are like the human eyes that keep us moving on the right track.

### **"Children are a picture of the world's future".**

A poet has looked upon children, not merely as breathing species likely to grow with time, but as 'leaves to the forest' better than all the ballads and always like the living poems. Ever since the dawn of human life on this planet, children have occupied a unique place in the family life and social milieu. Whatever their caste, creed or colour, they have always brought sunshine with their appearance to the environ and thus represented the best and the most

virtuous in human concept and action. If today we find a large number of children in a state of suffering, malnutrition and exploitation, the picture of the world's future is bleak indeed! Those born with a silver spoon in their mouths emit a picture of hope and pilarity in future. But, those born with certain handicaps, both physical as well as financial, throw back a hazy picture of the world's future. It can be anybody's guess what the future would be if the children of today are made to swing between penury and pangs of childhood, deprived of the basic needs and their natural urges to grow like saplings into full-fledged human beings (trees).

### **"We need more scientific attitude and not more science".**

Science and technology enhance human efficiency and accelerate progress on all fronts. Science also assures protection against hunger and disease as well as guarantees many successes in different walks of life. But, despite its perceptible and paramount imprint on the moving needles of time, there is always a feeling of something vital and vigorous lacking in human psyche that science has failed to produce in direct proportion to its candid contributions in other areas. It is not more science in life but more scientific attitude towards men and matters that has an immediate and direct bearing on our lives. Rational attitude towards others who may think differently from us, or treating the less privileged as untouchables or outcastes, is a sad reflection on our mental make-up that seems to have failed to catch up with the all-pervasive sway of science in our lives. Orthodoxy, fundamentalism, fanaticism,

fatalism and the like are some of the sickening symptoms of stagnant minds, where scientific approach or attitude is urgently needed. More of science can wait for sometime but more of scientific or rational temperament, towards issues that concern us all, cannot brook any delay or alibi. If the world is to become a truly honourable place to live in, the pace of scientific temper has to be quickened.

### **"Sweet are the uses of adversity".**

Adversity, though bitter in taste and tenor, proves sweet and sonorous when comprehended rightly and thoughtfully. When adversity strikes, it falls like a bolt from the blue and sends a chill down the spine. But, on second thoughts, the same calamity becomes a challenge that can be met with grit and gumption. Those who face the onslaught of adversity with restraint and equanimity, turn and tame its impact to their advantage. There is nothing as strong as human mind and if the adverse circumstances are properly tackled, there is nothing that can overawe human determination. In adversity, the most sterling qualities of head and heart become palpable and if one sees the message that adversity conveys, there is every likelihood that one can transform adversity into prosperity and get the better of it under all trying situations. Adversity is a teacher that teaches the value of brain and brawn, purpose and planning, in the midst of upsets and failures. Life is neither a bed of roses nor a series of tragedies only. If at times adversity appears unnerving, it is only its superficial face because in reality it brings out the best in human character and conviction.

# **Questions on Social and Economic Problems**

**Q.** What are some of the factors responsible for the generation of black money? How does the presence of black money effect the economic and social system?

**Ans.** Black money connotes the functioning of a parallel, unsanctioned sector in the economy whose objectives run in contradiction with the avowed social objectives. This implies a confrontation between the objectives of the legitimate and illegitimate sectors. Black money arises due to various factors, some of which are:

(a) **High tax rate:** The Chambers of Commerce and Industry hold a view that very high rates of taxation on incomes above a certain limit are in fact expropriatory in nature. This encourages tax evasion and thus causes the generation of black money.

(b) **Black money generation as a consequence of controls and licensing system:** A very common view is that the system of controls, permits, quotas and licenses which are associated with maldistribution of the commodities in short supply result in black money generation.

(c) **Donation to political parties:** The government had banned donations to political parties in 1968. Although the decision was taken to reduce the influence of big business on the electoral process, in practice the opposite happened. Businessmen got prompted to fund political parties, especially the ruling party, with the help of black money.

(d) **Ineffective enforcement of tax laws:** Although there are a number of tax laws their enforcement remains weak due to corruption in these departments. The high rates of these taxes also induce businessmen to avoid recording of these transactions. This kind of evasion sets in a chain

reaction for the generation of black money at the wholesale, retail and production levels.

(e) **Black money in the public sector:** Public sector enterprises have been getting huge sums of money in every five year plan. Tenders are invited for the work and then these are awarded by the bureaucrats in consultation with the political leaders. Thus, there is a relationship that develops between the contractors, bureaucracy, politicians and by a large number of devices, costs are artificially escalated and black money is generated by underhand deals.

**Impact of black income on economic and social system:** The direct effect of black income on the economy is the loss of revenue to the State exchequer as a consequence of tax evasion, both from direct and indirect taxes. Second, the availability of black incomes with businessmen and capitalists, and the consequent inequalities of income, place a large amount of funds at their disposal. Easy money, finds ready outlets in non-essential articles of conspicuous consumption. This has a demonstration effect on all classes of people. Thus, the consumption pattern gets tilted in favour of the rich and elite class.

Black money also encourages diversion of resources in the purchase of real estate and investment in luxury housing. There is thus large scale under-valuation of property. This pushes up the prices of land to astronomical heights. Moreover, black money is partly held in cash and as a consequence, there is an abundance of liquidity which becomes available through the accumulation of savings held in the form of cash, bullion, gold, silver, etc. This is called 'black liquidity'. Thus whenever the government attempts to control excess

demand with the help of measures of credit control, these attempts are thwarted by the huge liquidity provided by black money. This liquidity also becomes a threat to price stability.

Black money also results in transfer of funds from India to other countries through clandestine channels.

Last, but not the least, black money corrupts our political system. At every level, party functionaries or ministers, MLAs, MPs become recipients of this money.

**Q.** What are the main features of the electoral system in India? Mention some of the weaknesses of the system.

**Ans.** India is a democratic country where people exercise power through their representatives. Citizens elect their representatives through elections. The electoral system in India has certain distinct features.

First, elections have a constitutional base. Second, Universal Adult Franchise is a provision and is listed in article 326 of the Constitution. By the 61st Constitutional amendment every citizen of 18 years of age or above has been granted the right to vote.

Third, Joint Electorate System i.e., all voters living in a constituency and belonging to any caste, religion, race etc. jointly elect one representative and that representative can be of any caste, religion or race. Fourth, there is a provision for the reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. However, representative of these castes are elected by all the voters on the basis of joint electorate system. Fifth, there is a provision of secret ballot.

Sixth, there are single-member constituencies. That is, the State is divided

into constituencies having almost equal population and only one representative is elected from every constituency.

Seventh, results are declared on the basis of majority i.e., the candidate who secures the majority of valid polled votes is declared victorious.

Eighth, there is a system of single transferable vote system of proportional representation system.

Ninth, there is an Election Commission for holding free and impartial elections in India. Certain provisions have been made in the Constitution for making the Election Commission independent.

Tenth, there is a provision for election petitions for solving the disputes regarding elections. If any candidate or voter is not satisfied with any election result or feels that unfair means have been used in the elections, he can file a petition in the High Court and Supreme Court. In case the charge is proved right, the election can be declared invalid.

However, the electoral system has certain inherent weaknesses that have invited a lot of criticism. The following are some major lacunas:

(1) **Expensive**: Elections in India have become very expensive. A poor person, however capable he might be, cannot dream of contesting elections.

(2) **Misuse of Governmental Machinery**: In spite of the restriction on use of governmental machinery, this still prevails. Transfers of government officials before the elections is a common phenomenon. There are efforts to influence voters by providing different kinds of incentives.

(3) **Defective Voters Lists**: Voters lists are more often than not defective. They are not revised from time to time. Sometimes voters' names get deleted, at time deliberately, on other occasions by mistake. In either case, it deprives a lot of people from exercising their right.

(4) **Problem of Independent Candidates**: A number of times, it is seen that candidates file their names only to divide the votes of their rivals. Efforts need to be made to discourage such persons.

(5) **Wide gap between seats won and votes polled**: Often, there is a wide gap between the seats won by the different

political parties and the votes polled. This implies that a party which secures lesser number of votes can also come into power.

(6) **Delay in the disposal of election petitions**: Invariably, election petitions filed soon after the elections are decided a little time before the completion of the whole tenure. Thus, the practical importance of these decisions is almost nil.

**Q.** With the changing economic scenario, there has been an increasing emphasis on cutting down the size of the government departments. There have been various suggestions regarding agriculture, rural development also. Discuss this issue and give arguments For and Against.

**Ans.** Suggestions and awareness regarding reduction in the size of the government have become very prominent in the past few months. This has come in the wake of the austerity drive by the government. There is a growing realisation of the need for fiscal prudence.

**Arguments For**

(1) There is a lot of avoidable unplanned expenditure that is going on in government departments. This eats away into the resources of the government. Thus, it is important that there be considerable reduction in the size of the government. This can be brought about by bringing about a radical shift in the role of the State. Often, the State extends itself beyond reason, to avoidable areas.

(2) Agriculture and rural development, which are eminently State-related subjects, need to be considerably wound up. Not that the Central government is not needed in these areas, however, maintaining different Bhawans is an avoidable expenditure. There is an unnecessary plethora of bureaucracy that is engaged in work related to these departments. This can be easily cut down.

(3) There are many subjects in the State List of the Constitution. The Central government's role in these matters can be reduced to a great extent.

(4) The size of the government can be easily reduced to a third. Several posts can be removed from various departments.

**Arguments Against**

(1) India is still a developing country and the Centre has a great role to play in the development process of the economy. Government departments are created to cater to certain requirements. Therefore, there is no question of closing any department of the government.

(2) Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy. It contributes more than 35 per cent of our gross domestic products and provide employment to about 70 per cent of our work force. The Central government has to play an active role in the development of these sectors. The concerned departments, therefore, cannot be identified for closure. In fact, there is need to strengthen these departments. Similarly, health care and human resource developments are also two very basic necessities for development. Thus, it can be in no way desirable that the Centre will have no role on these subjects of top-most priority for the country.

(3) Closing down departments under extraneous considerations and rendering workers unemployed is an issue that would always be opposed by the trade union movements. Their argument is that proper job evaluation and work study with the involvement of trade unions must be carried out before jumping into the conclusion of surplus workers. The experience with the National Renewal Fund has been unsatisfactory. Instead of re-training workers after retrenchment, surplus workers should be re-trained and re-deployed without retrenchment.

While it is true that there is a need for reducing the size of the government, closure of any department in the name of affecting economy under the austerity measures, without consideration to the total implications, would not serve any purpose.

**Q.** There has been a lot of talk about a change in the nature and role of the Planning Commission. Discuss the issue and comment on what changes can be brought about in the organisation.

**Ans.** The Planning Commission derives its role from the role of the govern-

ment. This includes promoting economic efficiency and growth, eradicating extreme forms of inequities (both economic and social), coordinating economic policies of different wings of the Central government. In the light of the economic reforms taking place, there have been suggestions regarding changes required in the Commission. Earlier the Planning Commission used to waste time deciding what should be the size of the investment, what part of it should come from the public sector and what part from the private sector. Also, it used to set targets and to achieve those targets it directed other departments of the government to issue licences. Today investment decisions are being taken in the market by the private sector and the license regime has been scrapped. Thus, the Planning Commission needs to go beyond traditional functions and adopt new roles. The following are certain suggestions in this respect:

(1) The emphasis should be on indepth exploration into alternative scenarios in respect of vital sectors like energy, telecommunications, transport, social sectors and technology. The commission can bring in the experience of other countries. Important projects can also be formulated.

(2) There is a need to attract talent instead of the rejects of various departments of the government. There is excessive bureaucracy which needs to be redeployed to other departments.

(3) The commission also has the role of an allocational body. In the new context, its allocational role has to be in areas like infrastructure and environment. This means the commission should get involved in promotional exercises.

(4) The commission can also make projections about the fiscal deficit. Usually the government fixes a target of five per cent fiscal deficit (as a proportion to the GDP) but the year ends up with seven per cent fiscal deficit. The Planning Commission can make various suggestions on what the fiscal deficit would be like if the government follows a set of policies.

(5) The Planning Commission can suggest different ways of cutting expenditure and also about how resources have to be mobilised. Guidelines for imports can

also be suggested. Along with these, the Commission can make projections about the future balance of payments scenario.

(6) Besides these major changes, it is also necessary that the emphasis on detailed accounts of commodity balances and inter-industry consistency be reduced. It is more important to develop models of strategic responses to stimulated crisis situations.

It is important to understand that the Planning Commission plays an important role in national economic integration. It is an organisation that can bring together the knowledge of problems and potentials of various States. It also mediates in inter-State problems. Given such an important role, it is important that the Planning Commission needs to shift towards modelling, forecasting, study of ground level realities, evolving methods, experimenting with approaches and methods of implementing programmes and constantly evaluating the results.

The need of the hour is that planning remains not just an overseeing activity by the Centre but becomes a major support structure for the National Development Council.

**Q.** There have been negotiations going on between the government and international media companies regarding private TV operators uplinking directly from India. Discuss the various aspects involved and the possible benefits of such a deal.

**Ans.** There are various related issues connected to the main issue of allowing private TV operators uplinking directly from India. Indian companies are already sending their tapes to other countries like Hong Kong or Russia for telecasting to India. If anyway the audiences in India are receiving these broadcasts, permitting the uplinking from India itself will have the advantage of creating more employment opportunities in India. Investment in this activity would be more profitable and the extra cost and forex outgo in sending the tapes abroad would be avoided. There would be tremendous gains in the form of higher investments.

Another issue related to this is the monitoring of programmes. This is more an ideological issue. Some people do feel that threats to national security have to be considered. By and large, the consensus has been that there should be a code of conduct for broadcasting. Telephone calls involving national security are monitored and the print media is subject to a code of conduct. Similarly, a code of conduct can be adapted for broadcasting.

The Indian consumers are also expected to benefit. Indian consumers will be able to see much more India-originated programmes. They would benefit from a larger choice of news programming and channels. This is in line with the basic tenet of democracy regarding free flow of information.

When people criticise uplinking on ideological grounds, they probably confuse uplinking with downlinking facilities. These two are not the same. Allowing uplinking does not mean downlinking is also allowed. If someone uplinks from India, the signal would still come to India. For instance Pakistani TV has been accused of a lot of anti-India propaganda. This, however, is a downlink problem not an uplink problem. A country can have a strict downlink control but at the same time, a liberal uplink regime. Singapore is one such example. The country has one of the world's biggest uplink centres but at the same time, a very strict control over the media. Media is controlled through absolute downlink control.

In fact, allowing uplinking facilities involves a major cut in costs. Most private producers first have to pay an uplink charge to the VSNL, a satellite charge to Intelsat and then downlink charge to whoever they send programmes, whether to Hong Kong or Britain. There is a huge amount of cost involved in sending these programmes. Straight uplinking facility from India would help in cutting down the costs by a third.

There is definitely no rationale in not allowing the private uplink operators. Within the limits of some broadcasting code, it seems fairly reasonable to allow them to operate in India.

# Are You Bottled Up?

**F**AILURE, frustration, disappointment and despair are common to us all. They knock at every door, like death. Broken relationships, thwarted aspirations and difficult-to-live-with people, in office and at home, generate a lot of bitterness in life.

An office-worker feels bitter at the treatment he gets from a boorish boss. A youngster feels flustered because his parents impose curfew on him which he thinks is unreasonable. So goes the story in married life with many variations.

The feelings go on to accumulate in the mind and then sink into the subconscious, poisoning the crystal stream of thought-process. We become browned off.

This is not all. Bitterness is contagious. It spreads. One bitter worker in an office fouls the entire work environment. Ditto social, family and marriage relationships.

It is human to be bitter. But good sense and practical wisdom demand that bitterness should not be allowed to brew inside and cause lasting damage to the personality.

Bitterness should be spent. It should not be allowed to accumulate as it poisons the mind. Ventilated, it tends fast towards forgiveness but when hoarded, it converts into mental foul weather.

Slow, soothing bitterness that simmers and never comes to a boil, is responsible for much physical and mental distress.

If you are a chronic sore-head, consciously or otherwise, inevitably you suffer for it. You have at times been bitter, frustrated and envious. You have been hostile, too.

What matters is how long you stay that way. The longer the period of bitterness, the greater the damage.

Bitterness is born of frustration, of jealousy, stubbornness, false sense of pride, immaturity, and the inability to find an outlet for inner aggression. Whatever its

cause, bitterness is mental poison.

See how it works in actual practice. Here is an educated well-employed man who is always complaining about his wife. When things get rushed at home and he is under pressure, he begins to boil inside.

There is a saying that there are two kinds of people: those who give bitterness and those who hug it. Unfortunately, too many of us have the knack of giving it to *ourselves*. The resenter suffers more than the "resentee", is a well-known fact of psychology.

The same holds true for high blood pressure. "Take it easy. Watch your blood pressure", says one man to another who is "blowing his top". Yet it is not the sudden outbursts that are so bad; rather it is the person's sullen mind against himself more than others that aggravates the condition.

There are many suffering from hypertension. They do not take the opportunity to talk about their bitterness. If you ask them why they do not talk about it, they tell you that they have never been able to talk about being *angry*. There is the crux of the problem.

If you ask them, what they do about their bitterness, some of them will say, 'you know, I swallow it!' That is a very frequent way of putting it, they swallow it. They just allow it to tear them up inside.

A sense of prolonged grievance can live only in the individual who is out of balance, only in the one whose thoughts are always turned inward more than outward. It thrives in the selfish person and stews him in his own juice.

Marcus Aurelius wrote: "How much trouble he avoids who does not look to see what his neighbour says, or does, or thinks, but only to what he does himself."

Jealousy is a common ingredient of bitterness. The big car, the big home, the big bank balance, are the final measure of man's worth. If our neighbour has more

than we, dissatisfaction spills over and mars our days and nights. We are bitterness on two legs.

But you never can tell by appearances. If you were able to change places with your neighbour, you might easily sum out the loser. For example, you might change normal blood pressure for a big bank balances and a two hundred blood pressure!

To be satisfied with what we have is only one of the preventives of bitterness. Another is to realize that if you hate or resent, you can often solve the problem yourself. Often you can do a good job of self-evaluation—if you try hard enough. It requires force of will.

Admit, that aggression rises from a sense of frustration and insecurity. Your job is to find out what's bothering you—to bring it out in the open. Whom do you dislike, and why? Don't bottle it up. Talk it out, vent it occasionally, rather than contain it.

One of the friendliest men I know says: "I am a good hater. I get over it quickly. You do not catch me hating by the hour. A minute's "long enough".

That advice should be good a few thousand years from now, too. In any language, and at any time, it is a sure antidote for the slow poison of bitterness you brew inside you.

Prevent a day's bitterness and you prevent a week's sorrow, is a sound practical step towards sanity in living and achieving a measure of development.

William James' principle that the physical expression of an emotion deepens and reinforces it, while the refusal of physical expression diminishes and may even extinguish it, is a point to remember.

To sit slump in a chair with a deep furrow on the forehead and expression of bitterness will make you feel ill.

But to brace up, make yourself smile, to speak cheerfully, to dissipate bitterness

will bring about a pleasant change

When Millet was painting his famous masterpiece "The Angels", he was bitter because there was no food in the house. Yet, he went on and finished his work. He did not let bitterness frustrate him.

Have some absorbing aim in life—something bigger than yourself. It should make you feel important—so important that you cannot leave it even for a day. Feel an obligation to carry it out. It will dissipate your bitterness.

Bitterness brews a desire for revenge which is equally consuming. The inner unease and a deep frustration throttle your spontaneous feelings. Mahatma Gandhi has said, "Learn the art of revenge from me—forgive."

With bile flowing in your veins, you become unhappy and in this state of mind, you just cannot be an achiever.

Dr Beran Wolfe says: Living happily is a fine art that nearly every one who pos-

sesses an iota of intelligence, courage and sense of humour can learn."

Never lose sight of the fact that a bitter emotion is an abnormal condition of the organism. It is unnatural and hence it should not last long. It causes sharp psychological changes. It shakes the system as does a storm a tree.

When it is short and transitory, it leaves behind no permanent damage except the one that a jolt brings in its wake. When it long-drawn, it leaves behind a scar.

Strong bitter emotions leave behind impact but the impact may vary from person to person. For example, a bitter experience may leave one outraged and irritated for a period stretching over weeks but a similar experience may leave another upset only for a passing day.

It depends on the way one reacts to a situation. The former is given to store bitter feelings. Hence, he retains them, broods over them, generate more of them and rev-

els in them.

The latter does not absorb bitterness like a sponge. Hence, his reaction is different. It is a passing one. Thus is part of his overall approach to life. Thus, he escapes damage and returns to normal life quicker than the former.

It should be clear now that a prolonged spell of bitterness produces a feeling of general ill-will against the self as well as others. Thus negates the chances of happiness, health and success.

Once you let bitterness go by, you bid good bye to a host of dark thoughts, improve the sunny side of your personality, begin to sparkle as a human being and brim with confidence. It saves energy from being drained off and you charge your mental batteries.

Control your foul emotions. Don't let bitterness foul your mental landscape. Bid bye to bitterness. You will never be brighter than your thoughts.

# PAT, SSB INTERVIEWS

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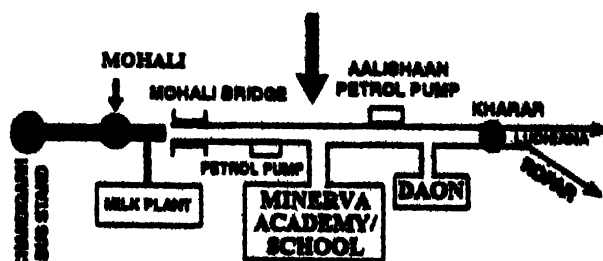
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# Interviews: What do they look for?

Interview, according to Collins Concise English Dictionary, is a formal discussion, especially one in which an employer assesses a job applicant. 'A formal consultation usually to evaluate qualifications (as of a prospective student or employee)', defines Webster's Dictionary. It can be meeting with a candidate to ascertain, by questioning and discussion, latter's suitability for a post.

The art of interviewing forms the very basis of the utmost input requirement, in the form of humans, of organisations. The process constitutes an important part of the recruitment procedure.

The interview Board, in the allotted time, has to bring out the best and the worst in the candidates and then arrive at conclusions, most subjectively, on a common-sense basis, since assessing a candidate on each and every attribute infallibly is neither possible nor feasible for the interviewers; rather there are chances of faltering.

To find the ideal candidate for any post is not possible, nor it is easy to define the concept completely in the context of the metamorphosing managerial and administrative values. The best course left to the Board is, therefore, to pick the best of the available candidates; to obviate repetition of the entire gamut of the selection procedure. This holds good, more often than not, in the case of selections for senior positions.

Often for the purpose, the Board evolves a check-list, an exhaustive but practical one, whereunder ratings are accorded for different personality traits. Experience has shown that this strategy works quite satisfactorily in all types of interviews.

The undermentioned can be the tentative parameters for the Board to look for its picks; not necessarily in the same

order or weightage, for they may vary from post to post and from organisation to organisation, depending upon their needs.

The candidate, *prima facie*, ought to have the needed potential and keenness for the purpose of being developed into a better one, in the near future, and on, to impart benefits to the organisation, for it spends its resources on the new incumbent with an eye for good returns.

Self-acceptance of the past failures, if any, by the candidate will prove an asset, a qualification. It will speak of his frankness and will inculcate value ethics in management—a compelling need of the hour the world over.

The candidate should be able to 'look within' as Christ has said, in the face of taking decisions, especially when confronting with hard situations. He must have a clear vision of himself and of the assignments required to be accomplished. As a matter-of-fact, his performance itself is a perennial source of inspiration to him; a source of fulfilment and pleasure; and a robust antidote to (counter) the stress, both in his personal and official life.

To be receptive and considerate to the aspirations and expectation of colleagues is the need of the time. The Selection Board therefore, looks for such a possibility and potential in the prospective candidate. Not only that, the ability to inspire confidence among the staff, while inter-acting with them, is also a pre-requisite to be searched and found out by the interviewers.

Another sought-after trait is candidate's ability to communicate—not only his ability to express, as is generally mixed up. For this purpose, the interviewers have to try for all the essential parameters of a good communicator *viz*; logical flow of thoughts, directiveness in the needed side for the needed purpose, ma-

turity in expression and communication, ability to listen and the art of a rational persuasiveness in arriving at the right decisions and passing on the instructions germane thereto to achieve the results. The art of communication is the hub of successful and result-oriented human relations.

The candidate should evince an abiding interest in updating his knowledge to qualify for being selected by the Board. Especially, such a policy plank is more needed when the interview is for the selection of a specialist. Both depth and breadth of the candidate's knowledge are indicators to his intellectual seasoning.

The candidate is expected, rather is required, to exercise self-check in all situations that he will face in his would-be organisation. He is to be assessed on his ability to shoulder both, praise and criticism, success and failure, authority and responsibility, with equanimity. Self-control, self-management, shedding of false egos are the time-tested recipes for successful managers, together with courage and conviction, backed-up, nevertheless, by firmness of action. A stiff and artificial stance will never be appreciated by the Board.

And overzealousness in conduct may also jeopardise the chances of being selected. If not checked, temperament can always sway away one's decisions to an un-wanted level of human relations, which may turn out to be a point of no-return. On part of the candidate, the deepest mental posture, even if provoked during the course of interview by the Board members, is sure to carry the day. This will help him give balanced answers to the satisfaction of the interviewers.

The interviewers end up, with the best available of the lot: the near-ideal; but not the ideal.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

#### ELECTIONS

##### Amended RP act comes into force

A major step towards electoral reforms was taken when the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 1996 and the amended Jammu and Kashmir Representation of People Act came into force on August 1, 1996. The main aim behind the amendment is to check money and muscle power and banish rigging from elections.

A total of thirteen Amendments have been made through the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1996. Now, a person convicted of an offence punishable under Section 2 or 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 shall be disqualified for a period of six years from the date of such conviction. It will also be possible for the Election Commission to nominate observers to watch the conduct of elections and these observers will have the power to direct the returning officers to stop the counting of votes or not to declare the results in certain contingencies like booth capturing and other such things. Also, henceforth a person can not be nominated as a candidate for elections in more than two constituencies of the same class.

Holding of by-elections has been made mandatory within a period of six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy.

To have a check on non-serious candidates, the security deposit has been increased to Rs 5000, from Rs 250 earlier. Also, now ten proposers are necessary in case of independent candidates. The poll campaign period has also been reduced from 21 days to 14 days.

#### SCANDALS

##### Rao charged with criminal conspiracy

ON July 9, 1996, a Delhi court named former Prime Minister Mr P.V.

### Recent Economic News

#### Railway Budget

The Railway Minister, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, introduced his maiden railway budget on July 16, 1996, and proposed a stiff 10 per cent hike in freight. Vulnerable sections of society were, however, exempted from bearing the brunt of the hikes. The suburban and second class commuters were spared and there was no increase in the fares of second class ordinary and mail/express. There was only a minor five per cent hike in fares beyond 200 kms for sleeper class mail/express and ordinary trains. A ten per cent hike was introduced for all distances in AC first class, AC 2-tier sleeper, AC 3-tier sleeper, AC Chair Car, first class ordinary and mail/express. A ten per cent hike was also introduced for fares of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and August Kranti trains. However, monthly and quarterly season tickets for both first class and second class were kept unchanged. The increase in freight rates is applicable to all commodities except articles of mass consumption such as foodgrains, edible salt, edible oil, kerosene, LPG etc. There was no increase introduced in existing newspaper and magazine freight rates.

The minister also declared that the plan outlay for 1996-97 had been fixed at Rs 8130 crore. The plan would be funded from internal resources totalling Rs 4111 crore, market borrowings of Rs 1850 crore, and private investments of about Rs 900 crore under the BOLT (build-operate-lease-transfer) and the own-your-wagon schemes. The budgetary support has been kept at Rs 1269 crore, compared to Rs 1100 crore in 1995-96.

Mr Paswan said that the gross receipts for 1996-97, at existing rates of fare and freight, worked out to Rs 23,873 crore. This is higher by Rs 488 crore, compared to the estimates made in the interim budget and was due to an increase in loading by nearly 20 million tonnes in recent months. The ordinary working expenses were fixed at Rs 16,423 crore (Rs 1833 crore more than the revised estimates of 1995-96) due to likely increase in prices, dearness allowance and higher lease charges to Indian Railway Finance Corporation.

The hike in fares and freight would account for an additional resource mobilisation of Rs 927 crore in the remaining eight months of 1996-97—increase in freight accounts for Rs 750 crore and the balance of Rs 177 crore from increased passenger fare hike.

The revenue earning freight traffic has been fixed at 410 million. The passenger traffic is expected to go up by 4 per cent. The Plan outlay for 1996-97 has been fixed at Rs 8130 crore, an increase of 8 per cent over last year.

In 1995-96, 390 million tonnes of revenue earning freight traffic originated, against 365 million tonnes in 1994-95. The operating ratio of railways improved to 82.5 per cent.

Besides these measures, Mr Paswan also announced introduction of fifteen new trains mainly benefitting Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the North-East. The increase in the number of passenger trains is expected to adversely affect freight traffic.

After the announcement of the increase in freight charges, various industries came closer to announcing price hikes. It is expected that there will be a ripple effect of the freight charge increase. The industries that have been directly affected are cement, steel, coal. It is natural that the price hike in these commodities will affect user-industries such as power, automobiles and construction.

There was a certain amount of criticism regarding the minister's decision to introduce new trains for the north-east area. The decision was said to be politically motivated. Although the Congress members were satisfied with the budget, certain opposition members criticised the thrust of the budget. They alleged that nothing was being done to remove corruption from the railways.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

Narasimha Rao as an accused in the Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case and issued summons to him to appear in court on July 24. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Prem Kumar said that Mr Pathak's statement pointed towards the existence of a criminal conspiracy between Mr Rao, Mr Chandraswami and his secretary Mr Kailash Nath Aggarwal alias Mamaji. Mr Rao was made the third accused in the case and charged under Sections 120 (B) and 420 of the (IPC) Indian Penal Code (criminal conspiracy and cheating).

Mr Pathak, a non-resident Indian, had accused Mr Chandraswami of cheating him of US \$ 1,00,000 in 1984. While giving his statement in the court of the CMM, he had said that the godman had introduced him to Mr Rao, the then External Affairs Minister, at Hotel Holorum, New York, in December 1983, in order to win his confidence.

Mr Rao, however, did not give up and filed a petition in the Delhi High Court, challenging the July 9 order of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. While he was exempted from appearing on July 24, the court rejected his petition and asked

him to appear in court on August 2. Mr Rao had challenged the order on the contention that the material available before the CMM was not 'compelling enough' to summon him.

Later, Mr Rao appealed to the Supreme Court and on July 31, the apex court exempted Mr Rao from personal appearance till further orders. Mr Rao had challenged the High Court verdict upholding the issue of summons to him, on the ground that Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, under which the magistrate had acted, was a departure from the usual method which requires an investigation to be made before the "issuance of process" against an accused. In his petition, Mr Rao had submitted that he did not have the benefit of either an inquiry or an investigation in the allegations that he was involved in the cheating case.

## PLANNING & ECONOMY

### Delicensing of ten industries

ON July 26, 1996 the Industry Ministry approved the delicensing of ten more industries. These include alcohol, animal

fats and oils, cigar and cigarettes, tanned and dressed furskin, chamois leather, wood-based products and paper, plywood, hazardous chemicals, asbestos-related products, drugs and pharmaceuticals and entertainment electronics. Proposals to delicense coal and lignite, petroleum (other than crude) and its distillation products, and sugar, were rejected.

Delicensing of cigarettes and cigars was justified on the grounds that compulsory licensing of cigar and cigarettes had a marginal impact on protection of human health since majority of the population consumed *bidi* and chewing tobacco which were outside the purview of licensing. Also, since the government had already taken a decision in 1993, to delicense other items perceived as those catering to elitist consumption, such as refrigerators, washing machines, microwave ovens, passenger cars, it was felt that entertainment electronics could be delicensed too.

Since the supply of raw material for the paper industry is already regulated by the State governments, the government felt that this industry could also be delicensed. Similarly, the ministry note has pointed out that manufacture of alcoholic drinks had earlier been kept under compulsory licensing on social and health grounds. However, a recent Supreme Court judgement had said that factories employing less than 50 workers do not require licence from the Central government. The State governments had been declared competent to issue licenses in this regard. Therefore, the Central government cannot really restrict the licensing capacity.

The leather industry has been approved for delicensing because the Murthy Committee constituted in the Ministry of Industry had pointed immense growth potential in this industry. The ministry also said that since animal fats and oils could be regulated through the directorate of vanaspati, edible oils and fats, there was no need to keep them under compulsory licensing.

## Recent Economic News

### Planning Commission Reconstituted

The United Front Government has reconstituted the Planning Commission. Mr Madhu Dandavate, former Finance Minister and a politician with a socialist background, has been appointed as the Deputy Chairman. He assumed office on August 1, 1996. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the commission. The new commission members are: Agriculture Minister Mr Chaturanan Mishra, Finance Minister Mr P. Chidambaram, Minister of State for Planning Mr Y.K. Alagh, Mr S.R. Hashim, Mr J.S. Bajaj, Mr M.R. Srinivasan, Mr Arjun Sengupta, Mr Chitra Nayak, Mr G. Thimmaiya and Mr S.P. Shukla. The former Chief Economic Advisor Mr Bimal Jalan will be Member Secretary.

Mr Dandavate acknowledged that the plan panel now had a "socialist look" but said that socialism should be reflected in the actions of the commission and not just the minds of the members. He also said that planning is still relevant and the public sector can be made profitable by strengthening it. He also acknowledged the importance of the urgent need for development of infrastructure, such as railways. Mr Dandavate added that the approach paper to the ninth plan will try to give a concrete shape to the policies and programmes laid down in the United Front's common minimum programme. He assured that the thrust of planning will be on employment generation, eradication of poverty and removal of the regional imbalances.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

### Disinvestment Commission

**I**N a major development, the Cabinet, on July 19, 1996, approved the formation of a disinvestment commission to advise the government on disinvestment of shares in public sector undertakings. The five-member commission will identify the individual PSU as well as the quantum of government equity for disinvestment. The commission will also advise the mode, price and time of disinvestment and will replace the Group of Ministers for advisory function, vis-a-vis the sick companies.

The proceeds of disinvestment will be channelled into the National Renewal Fund and priority will be given to small investors applying for a small amount of funds, while a mechanism will be put into place to limit shareholding by big institutional investors.

The Industry Ministry has proposed complete disinvestment in tourism and hotels, while reducing to 26 per cent the government's equity in non-strategic and non-core areas.

## POLITICAL

### Minor Cabinet re-shuffle

**M**OHID Maqbool Dar, the lone Janata Dal MP from Jammu and Kashmir was inducted into the Deve Gowda Ministry on July 10, 1996, in the slot vacated in the Home Ministry by Mohammad Taslimuddin, who had resigned from the Union Cabinet the previous day. The Minister of State for Communications Mr Beni Prasad Verma, a Samajwadi Party functionary from Uttar Pradesh, has been elevated to the Cabinet rank. These changes assumed significance in view of the coming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh.

Although the overall strength of the ministry remains 38, the number of Cabinet ministers has gone up to 19 and that of ministers with independent charge has come down to 9.

Earlier, Mr Taslimuddin had resigned on the eve of the budget session of Parlia-

### Changes in NBFC regulations.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced major relaxations for obedient Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). These include freeing of interest rates on deposits, snapping the link between company's net worth and the amount it can raise and relaxation of the liquidity ratio for the NBFCs.

It is expected that, as a result of these relaxations, the deposit rates for one year maturity will immediately move into the 17-19 per cent range. Moreover, these measures would induce the unregistered NBFCs to register with the Central Bank, to obtain a credit rating and to follow the prudential norms. Subsequently, the relaxations would be available to companies according to their stage of compliance.

Relaxation on these fronts will be generous for companies which are following prudential norms and have reasonable credit rating. Registered NBFCs, which meet the RBI's requirements on prudential norms and credit rating, have been given freedom to offer interest rates on deposits of one year to five years. This relaxation will be applicable from the date the companies receive the clearance certificate from the RBI. On other NBFCs, the ceilings shall remain.

ment, following controversy over his alleged involvement in some criminal cases in Bihar.

## LAW POINT

### New Interpretation to Dowry Act

**I**N a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has stated that demand for dowry, even during negotiations for marriage, is an offence under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The division bench, comprising Justice A S Anand and Justice M.K. Mukerji, gave the ruling on a petition filed by S Gopal Reddy, an IAS trainee in 1985. Mr Reddy had filed the petition appealing against the Andhra Pradesh High Court judgement of October 16, 1990, upholding the order of a trial court sentencing him for the offence under Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. He had submitted that for demand for dowry to become an offence under Section 4, it must be made at the time of marriage and not during the negotiations for marriage. However, the apex court rejected his argument.

### New Law on Arbitration

**A**N Important step will be taken in the history of legal and judicial reforms

in India when the Arbitration and Conciliation Ordinance, 1996, is made into a law. The law has the potential to bring about a qualitative change in the way in which the role of law is perceived and the way in which administration of justice is carried out. It is a part of the process of economic liberalisation in the country and there is a virtual national consensus on the subject.

The ordinance repeals the three enactments namely, the Arbitration (Protocol and Convention) Act 1937, the Arbitration Act 1940, and the Foreign Awards (Recognition and Enforcement) Act 1961. The new law would consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also the law relating to conciliation. It derives its uniqueness from the fact that it uses the United Nations Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation Rules, both for international commercial arbitration and domestic arbitration and conciliation.

It is significant that this law, for the first time in India, will provide a detailed statutory framework for the conduct of independent conciliation proceedings outside the court. It restricts the scope of

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

judicial scrutiny of awards and also gives maximum freedom to parties in the appointment of arbitrators. It is hoped that the law will help in substantially reducing accumulation of cases in courts by providing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods for settlement of disputes.

### JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

#### Summons to Mr Gowda criticised

IN its session on July 25, 1996, the Rajya Sabha debated on judicial activism and its encroachment on parliamentary functioning. The debate was in context of the issue of the Allahabad High Court summons to Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda, regarding the constitutionality of his appointment as Prime Minister.

Most of the members suggested that he should ignore the summons, since the High Court had not realised that his appointment had been made by the President after satisfying himself on Mr Gowda's claim and that the Prime Minister had won a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. However, the BJP said that confrontation with the judiciary should be avoided and it would be better for the government to approach the Supreme Court.

### CRIMINALISATION OF POLITICS

#### Chandra Report indicts Mulayam Singh Yadav

THE Ramesh Chandra Committee has made a 'cast iron case' against two senior Union Ministers, Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mr Beni Prasad Verma, holding them responsible for the murderous assault on former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Ms Mayawati and her supporters, in Lucknow on June 2, 1995. The report has also pointed out that for some

period, a particular community was having full control over the selection of police personnel. It added that the attack on Ms Mayawati and her supporters was a case of conspiracy by police officials, dereliction of duty on the part of the police officials and slackness and non-performance.

The controversy had taken place in June 1995 when Ms Mayawati arrived at the government guest house in Lucknow and informed the Governor about her decision to withdraw support to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. She even presented evidence before the Governor, about having support of 282 MLAs and demanded that an alternative government, headed by her, be formed. On June 2, Ms Mayawati and her supporters were attacked. Some MLAs were also abducted. The report has said that the abducted MLAs have sworn in affidavits that on reaching Mr Yadav's house, they were first offered inducements and then threatened. They were then forced to sign a paper and held captive in Mr Yadav's residence till 11 p.m.

Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav has, how-

ever, refused to accept the report despite *prima facie* evidence indicting him.

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### Economic package

WITH an eye on the Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, scheduled for September, 1996, Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda announced in the Parliament on July 23, 1996, an economic package for the State, that includes the construction of a 290 km long railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla.

The announcement is said to have been made keeping in mind the coming Assembly elections. Though the Rs 2500 crore railway project is not a new one, it is being taken up as a national project and will be financed by the Centre outside the Railway's plan. The Rs 77.4 crore Mughal Road Project, linking Jammu with Srinagar via Rajouri-Shopian and Pulwana, would also be taken up, with the cost being shared with the State government. Revival of the 390 MW Dulhasti hydro-electric project and commissioning of the first unit of the 480 MW Uri hydro-electric project in 1996

#### FIPB modified

ON July 9, 1996, the Union Cabinet took a decision with regard to modifications of the foreign investment clearance mechanism. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) was revamped and its clearing authority enhanced from Rs 300 crore to Rs 600 crore. With the introduction of changes, the Empowered Committee on Foreign Investment (ECFI), headed by the Finance Minister, stands abolished. Earlier, the ECFI had been working as the final approving authority for foreign investment projects upto Rs 300 crore, cleared by FIPB, which was functioning under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Now the FIPB has been restored to the Industry Ministry and the power vested in the ECFI will rest with the Industry Minister. The FIPB will be chaired by the Industry Secretary but will also have Secretaries finance, commerce and economic relations, in the Ministry of External Affairs, as members.

With these modifications, the FIPB's responsibility has been widened. Apart from approvals of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment), it will also give clearance to investment promotion and formulating investment guidelines for foreign investment. The government also decided to set up promotional wings, Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) and for coordinated FIPB and corporate, distinguished and well-known experts, to undertake investment promotion and marketing efforts.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

itself are the other two components of the package.

While the Congress Party welcomed the package, the BJP called it a mere election stunt. The BJP also criticised the Prime Minister for not having made these announcements in either the general budget or the railway budget.

On August 2, 1996, Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda announced an economic package that includes waiving of outstanding loans of small borrowers, a special Central plan assistance and development of infrastructure for tourism.

The package also includes upgrading

of Jammu city to class 'B', development of airport at Kargil, infrastructural development for tourism in Leh district and setting up of a conference or convention centre at Leh.

In view of the precarious resource position of Jammu and Kashmir, resulting from militancy, the Prime Minister said the Central government would provide Rs 352 crore under special Central plan assistance to balance the State budget during the current year, so that the entire plan outlay of Rs 1050 crore could be utilised for development schemes without having to divert any part of it to meet the non-plan gap.

#### Diesel price hike reduced

On July 8, 1996, the government halved the earlier hike in diesel prices, to effect a final raise of 15 per cent. The government claimed that with this, the oil pool account is no longer self-balanced and is stuck with a Rs 1980 crore gap in the form of a subsidy on diesel. This is because there has been no simultaneous increase in prices of other products for effective cross-subsidisation.

The earlier hike of 30 per cent in diesel had entirely wiped out subsidy on the product. Official sources said that the Rs 5000-odd crore transferred to the Public Accounts Deposit in 1989—i.e. from the oil budget into the general budget—would have to be returned to bridge the gap.

The Oil Ministry estimates point out that the government stands to lose heavily from the roll-back in diesel prices:

(a) The government's mop will fall sharply only Rs 6700 crore as against the pre-roll back estimate of Rs 9700 crore.

(b) Outstandings of oil companies in the form of the oil pool account deficit will increase to Rs 4700 crore by the end of this fiscal year, from only Rs 2000 crore estimated as per pre-roll back.

#### Fertiliser subsidy increased

On July 5, 1996, the government raised the price concessions on non-nitrogenous complex fertilisers with immediate effect. Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda announced the concessions at the concluding session of the Chief Ministers' Conference.

The concession on indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) has been raised from Rs 3000 to Rs 3600 a tonne and that on imported DAP to Rs 4500 a tonne. The concession on Muriate of Potash (MOP) has also been hiked from Rs 3000 to Rs 4500 a tonne. Similarly, proportionate concessions would be available on other complex fertilisers involving phosphate and potash as well.

It is hoped that the increased concessions will enable the farmers to buy the fertiliser essential for crop productivity and maintenance of soil fertility. Also, it will help to curb the inflationary pressure resulting from the demand of non-subsidised inputs. Fertiliser prices in 1992

### ANDHRA PRADESH In spot over Prohibition

THE Andhra government, headed by Mr Chandrababu Naidu, is faced with a crisis in so far as prohibition is concerned. Prohibition was introduced last year by former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao and has proved to be an expensive experiment with populism. The mounting burden of subsidies on the State has forced the government to initiate a debate on the viability and relevance of populist programmes. Fear of political backlash and mass agitations is preventing any reversal of policy. Although a majority of bureaucrats, intellectuals and industrialists are advocating a phased lifting of prohibition to solve the financial crisis, opposition parties and women organisations have threatened agitations if the dry law is sought to be diluted.

Opposition parties are critical of TDP's (Telugu Desam Party) change of attitude towards prohibition. They point out that prohibition was the main political issue of the party and it cannot backtrack now.

The State government, however, is concerned about finances and sees removal of these populist measures as a solution. What makes it even more difficult for the government is that its Left allies—CPI and CPM—have also warned against watering down populist programmes including prohibition.

For the present, the TDP government has already increased the price of rationed rice from Rs 2 per kg to Rs 3.50 per kg. A re-thinking on certain other populist measures is on. A survey by the State intelligence department has pointed out that opinion is divided with the majority of urbanites favouring relaxation of prohibition, while the rural people are committed to its continuance.

#### Ban on PWG

THE Andhra Pradesh government re-imposed the ban on Peoples War

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

Group (PWG) on July 23, 1996. PWG is the most violent among the Naxalite outfits. Six of its front organisations have also been banned. The ban has been reimposed after a gap of nearly 13 months. Any possibility of the Naxalite outfit returning to the democratic process was ruled-out. The ban is a result of the grim insurgency that the government faces.

PWG was banned for the first time in 1992, by the then Congress government headed by Mr N. Janardhan Reddy. The ban was initially for three years, and came up for renewal after TDP headed by NTR came to power in December 1994. Under pressure from its own partymen and various NGOs, the NTR government had relaxed the ban for six months.

### PUNJAB

#### 1000 bodies tagged "unidentified" cremated by Police

THE Supreme Court was told by the CBI on July 22, 1996, that it had found enough material and evidence to show that as many as 1000 bodies, tagged as "unidentified" by the Punjab Police, had been disposed of surreptitiously during 1990-95.

The CBI has submitted a 74-page preliminary report to a division bench comprising Justice Kuldip Singh and Justice Saghir Ahmed. In its report it had said that on the basis of the material collected it had *prima facie* found that a total of 984 bodies had been cremated by the police on the grounds that they were unidentified.

The judges expressed their shock over the findings. In a brief order they directed the CBI to continue its inquiry into the matter and issue a general direction to the public/authorities or government officers to hand over any information regarding the issue to the CBI.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### India fast becoming a global waste basket

INDEPENDENT investigations carried out by two leading international and national environmental groups have revealed that India is fast turning into a global waste basket with international waste traders dumping hazardous wastes with impunity, in contravention of all local and international laws. Mr Jan Rispens of the Greenpeace said that the situation is completely out of control and that every Indian port is a floodgate standing open and the world's waste traders know it.

Greenpeace, along with Srishti, an Indian NGO working on waste issues, recently investigated customs data from the Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras ports. It was found that 151 Indian trading firms had imported about 66,000 metric tonnes of toxic zinc and lead ashes, residues and skimmings from 49 countries in the last two years.

However, government sources have said that they are maintaining strict control on import of hazardous wastes and were also fully implementing the Basel Convention—the international treaty to control trade in hazardous wastes. Environment Ministry officials said that only five firms had been licensed to import hazardous metallic waste for recycling and that too from only three countries, Germany, South Korea and Netherlands.

The countries leading in exporting hazardous waste to India include the USA (11,857 tonnes), Australia (9034 tonnes) and Canada (7270 tonnes).

### PROJECTS

#### Sardar Sarovar Dam—accord reached

A meeting presided by Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda, on July 16,

1996, agreed to decrease the height of the proposed Sardar Sarovar Dam from 455 feet to 436 feet. This was a result of the compromise reached upon by the Chief Ministers of the four Narmada basin States—Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Although the original profile of the dam, at its full height of 455 feet, will not be changed, construction will go ahead keeping the height of 436 feet as the target for the moment. Construction upto 455 feet will be taken up only if the hydrological survey, to be conducted during the next five years, makes out a case for it.

The height of the multipurpose dam had been a source of dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, with the latter demanding the reduction in height. Now, as a result of the reduction in the height of the dam, the gross submergence area in the State (MP) will be reduced by 27 per cent and cultivable area will be saved by 49 per cent. Moreover 11,000 families in 67 villages would be saved from a traumatic displacement. Twenty seven per cent of the forest area and 34 per cent of the population will be saved from being displaced.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

#### India joins ASEAN forum

ON July 23, 1996, in Jakarta, India formally joined the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), an exclusive club which deals with security issues in the Asia and Pacific region. This inclusion is taken as an important landmark in India's relations with south-east Asian region. India's status in ASEAN has also been upgraded to that of full dialogue partner. The ARF has a growing list of candidates seeking membership. Among those are Britain, France, Mongolia, North Korea, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe. China and Russia have already been inducted into ARF.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

#### INDONESIA

##### Troubled times ahead

THE world's largest island group, comprising Java, Sumatra, two-thirds Borneo, Sulawesi and Irian Jaya, appears to be in for troubled times ahead. Indonesia, which for years seemed almost invisible to European eyes, has now become an unwieldy State. Violent riots in Jakarta have resulted in the death of at least two people, many were injured and a dozen government buildings and businesses were gutted by fires. The presence of armoured cars and troops on the streets of the capital was seen to be a signal of the end of the country's years of miraculous unity.

Indonesia is the world's fourth largest country with an estimated 192 million people, 87 per cent of whom are Muslims. From the 18th century till the time of Japanese conquest in 1942 the country remained in Dutch control. After a brief war with Japan, independence was gained in 1949.

The riots in the last week of July were sparked partially by the government's ousting of Megawati Sukarnoputri—daughter of Sukarno—from the leadership of the main opposition party, the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI). The headquarters of the PDI were raided by police. They had been occupied for more than a month by supporters of Megawati. She has been demanding that the government recognise her as the legitimate leader of the PDI and withdraw its support for a rival elected in a rigged Congress last month. Megawati—by virtue of being President Sukarno's daughter—is the most popular and respected figure in the country. Although Suharto commands fair amount of popularity, his clumsy sacking of Megawati has given citizens new ideas.

The root of the ongoing changes is the 75-year old President Suharto. When he came to power in 1965, the country was an international basket case, disturbed by

anti-communist and anti-Chinese programmes. These killed as many as 4,00,000 people and were described by CIA as "one of the world's worst mass murders of the 20th century". In 1967, he placed the former President Sukarno under house arrest and was declared the President of the so-called "New Order".

Suharto is now an old man and his advancing years have coincided with the increasing changes in Indonesian society and surfacing of old and familiar conflicts. Wealth is distributed unequally in the country. Insulting the President is punishable by imprisonment. People were shocked in May, 1996, when the President's son was given the right to develop a national car free of import and luxury taxes. Also earlier this year, a petro-chemical plant owned by another of the Suharto boys was exempted from a tax increase. All these events have led to a lot of discord in the minds of the people.

#### G-7

##### Meet on terrorism

A one-day meeting of foreign and security ministers of the Group of Seven industrialised nations and Russia, was held in Paris on July 31, 1996. Alarmed at increasing terrorist strikes, the world's major powers chalked out new measures to combat terrorism. However, USA's demand for sanctions against "terrorist States" was neglected.

The conference was planned immediately after the bombing of a residential complex of American troops in Saudi Arabia and gained more significance with the bomb blast in Atlanta during the Olympics and the possible bombing of the TWA plane, which had crashed over the Atlantic killing all 230 on board.

The measures announced include anti-terrorism legislation and restricted access to Internet. They also decided on the adoption of an International Convention on Terrorist Acts using explosives and

other forms of terror which harbour collective threats, training of anti-terror experts, tightening of national legislations on terrorism, and control of production, sales and exports of arms and explosives. It was also decided to have a closer look at feasible channels for direct or unapparent funding of terrorism. This would bring into focus a number of non-governmental organisations with culture and humanitarian fronts which may be sheltering terrorists.

#### SRI LANKA

##### Fighting with LTTE escalates

THE LTTE militants killed about 400 soldiers in a massive raid on a strategic Army base in Sri Lanka's north-eastern Mullaitivu district, on July 18, 1996.

The attack on the Mullaitivu base was the biggest launched by the LTTE, in terms of the number of cadres, after the militants lost their stronghold Jaffna and the entire peninsula to the Army in December 1995. Earlier, big attacks had been on the Pooneryn and Nagathemanthurai camps in November 1994, when the Army and the LTTE both suffered heavy losses totalling nearly 1000. The Mullaitivu attack is said to signal a turn in the war.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Parliament extended the nation-wide state of emergency with the government asserting that it planned to check the LTTE's designs to destabilise the country. The motion for extension of emergency was passed by a majority of 45 votes but was opposed by the main opposition United National Party (UNP) and the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

Close on the heels of the massive attack by the militants, another blow was dealt to the Sri Lankan forces as a bomb blast resulted in the death of at least 50 commuters. Scores of others were wounded. This blast took place in the crowded Colombo-Galle passenger train, just before the suburban Dehuwal station.



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The blast occurred inspite of a three-day maximum security red alert in the capital.

Troops, meanwhile, recaptured Mullaithivu military base on July 29, 1996, and began a search for hundreds of missing soldiers, claimed to have been massacred by the rebels.

Incidentally, the LTTE attack on the Mullaithivu camp came just five days before the 13th anniversary of the 1983 anti-Tamil riots in Colombo. The LTTE said that the attack was undertaken to mark the anniversary of "Black July". The attack was also in memory of Chaellakili, who led the rebel ambush of an army patrol at Tirunelveli in the northern Jaffna in which 13 soldiers had been killed.

So far this year, the war has cost the government Rs 50 billion (\$ 909 million) or 6.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. The defence budget had been set at Rs 38 billion (\$ 690 million). President Kumaratunga said that she would be forced to cut subsidies on rice and bread if the war doesn't finish before the end of 1997. The high defence spending has forced the government to borrow more, leading to increased interest rates, less money for economic activities, lower profits and ultimately workers being laid-off.

The government has proposed a peace plan under which Sri Lanka will become a federation of eight regions, each with wide powers of self-rule, including one that would be dominated by Tamils. If the parliament rejects the plan, war would have to be fought to a finish. Tamil guerillas have already rejected the plan saying it is not enough. On the other hand, influential Buddhist monks and hardline Sinhalese oppose the plan saying it grants too much powers to the Tamils.

### USA

#### Atlanta Blast

THE Centennial Olympics suffered a shock when a bomb ripped through a crowded Olympics park in Atlanta on July

27, 1996. At least two people were killed and more than 100 wounded. This was the first terror attack at the Games since the one in Munich Olympics in 1972.

An emergency phone call was received by the authorities just minutes before the blast but there was not enough time to evacuate the whole area. The blast was caused by a pipe bomb.

The Atlanta incidence was the third terrorist activity against USA, in a span of two months. On June 26, a powerful truck bomb had ripped through US Air Force housing complex in Saudi Arabia. On July 17, a TWA airliner blew up in mid-air, suspected to be a terrorist attack. These incidents shook the population as never before. In fact, terrorism is no longer something that happened in the Middle East, United Kingdom, Punjab, Kashmir or Pakistan. There is a growing suspicion that the Atlanta bombing could be the work of native Americans, as it was in the case of the Federal Building in Oklahoma. There has been a growing concern over the impact of such terrorist outrages and how much the personal liberty of the citizens will be affected.

#### TWA crash

A Trans World Airways (TWA) jumbo jet blew up mid-air and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on July 17, 1996. All the 229 passengers on board—among them, 16 school children—were feared killed.

The plane crashed a short while after it took off from the John F. Kennedy airport, for the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. It had come from Athens (Greece) and was at the Kennedy airport for about three hours. While the earlier statements from FBI did not make any firm statement about the possibility of a bomb, later reports (July 29) confirmed that there had been a bomb in the front portion of the plane. Besides, the flight recorder had a blast sound recorded as the last recording.

President Clinton has appointed Vice President Al Gore to head a commission on airline safety that would report back in 45 days on how to use latest technology for security. Henceforth, more baggage would be screened or handsearched, even if it meant delays in flights and increased crowds at airports.

### NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION India sticks to stand on CTBT; China blasts another bomb

THE External Affairs Minister Mr I.K. Gujral emphasised in the Parliament on July 15, 1996, that India would not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) but would definitely take part in the discussions in Geneva. The decision to participate was based on the fact that India wants to ensure that her freedom of action is not constrained in any manner. The minister said that the country's approach to CTBT had the backing of all political parties.

Even as the CTBT talks began on July 29, and discussions were going on, China shocked the world with yet another nuclear test. This came only hours before negotiators were preparing for a final push to approve a global nuclear weapons test ban. However, China promised a moratorium from July 30, 1996. A statement appealed to all countries with huge nuclear arsenals to continue to drastically reduce their nuclear stockpiles.

India expressed dismay over China's N-test considering that it came at a time when CTBT negotiations were in progress. In what was perhaps the strongest statement made at the UN negotiations so far, on the CTBT, India's permanent representative in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference on Disarmament, Ms Arundhati Ghose, stated that India's signature to the treaty may be desirable but is not attainable. She emphasised that India would not sign the treaty even three

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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years hence. This assumes special significance because the draft envisages a conference three years after the treaty has been opened for signature, of States that have already ratified, to consider and decide by consensus what measures consistent with international law may be undertaken to facilitate an early enforcement of the treaty. Ms Ghose had also proposed a specific amendment to the EIF (Entry Into Force) article of the treaty. She made it clear that if the conference did not accept such a modification to the Article XIV, India would block the Treaty from being forwarded to the plenary for consideration.

The USA reacted strongly to India's refusal to sign the CTBT even as Pakistan showed its hesitation in signing the treaty even if India agrees to sign the treaty.

India has been insisting that a "genuine" CTBT should include a commitment by all nuclear powers to bring down their arsenals to zero within a specific time frame, and also ban all forms of nuclear testing, including "cold testing" in laboratories.

### UK-SOUTH AFRICA

#### Nelson Mandela visits England

NELSON Mandela's four day-visit to London, from July 10, 1996, created a lot of excitement and was described as most historic. Besides the warm welcome that he received on his arrival, his visit attained an emotional touch because of the effort that went into turning his visit as a celebration of a remarkable human being. Evidence of public enthusiasm was seen in the fact that about 6500 people came to watch the first ceremonial event, the welcome at House Guards by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Even for President Jacques Chirac of France, only about 2000 people had come.

It is felt that the high profile, warmth and special attention that was given to President Mandela's visit was a result of the necessity that Britain feels for making him forget the long years of his own

humiliation. The British also realise that President Mandela, who has adopted a policy of reconciliation instead of revenge, is the only hope for restoring harmony and convincing his people that self-denial is needed after years of forced denial by the outsiders. There have been rising incidents of crime, an increase in economic problems and unemployment in South Africa. Many Blacks feel disappointed because they had thought that they would inherit all the riches of the Whites once they left. However, that has not happened and disappointment has led to growing occurrence of theft and crime.

It does, however, remain a question whether the Tory Rights, who have been severely critical of the President and even considered him a terrorist, would also nurture the same feelings towards him as the ruling government in Britain.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### UN Talks on Climate change

IN the UN talks on climate change, on July 17, 1996, 11 countries voted against accepting scientific opinion as the basis for political action to combat global warming through a UN protocol or any other legally binding international instrument. These opponents include 10 OPEC countries, including China.

These negotiations, signed by over 150 countries, are based on the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) which was arrived-at in Rio in 1992, during the UN 'Earth Summit'. The purpose of the FCCC is to limit and reduce emissions of man-made Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), over a time period, through its Article 2. The most important GHG is carbon dioxide, whose major source is energy generation from fossil fuel.

Climatic conventions in recent years have been the result of reports by IPCC. The IPCC, or Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, was formed jointly in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environ-

ment Programme (UNEP). It has been providing scientific and technical inputs to the global warming debate through studies of its three working groups comprising nearly 2500 scientists from all over the world.

The Rio Convention was on the basis of the first assessment report of IPCC, published in 1990. The Second Assessment Report (SAR) was published in December 1995. This report makes a specific statement on the human influence on global climate and has suggested possible approaches to achieve the goals of Article 2 of the convention.

SAR was accepted as the most comprehensive and authoritative assessment of the science of climate change by a majority of nations attending the talks. They felt that the report should be used as the basis for implementing FCCC. The OPEC countries have reacted against because it would ultimately hit their oil markets. However, China's reaction is considered intriguing. It has been pointed out that China's opposition is more on "rules of procedure" being violated by the IPCC than on the SAR itself. This was indicated by the election of the 'Friends of the Chair' (FOC) at the conference. The FOC named were Japan, USA, Germany, China, Brazil, Kiribati, Poland, Russia, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Switzerland. These nations were given the right to influence the outcome of the negotiations in the form of a joint ministerial declaration made there.

India's absence among the FOC nations was noted with a sense of disappointment. Observers have been surprised at India's low-key role. However, Indian officials dismissed these charges and pointed out that the climate talks were still continuing and there was no sign of any legal instrument.

### IRELAND

#### Again on the brink

AFTER about two years of peace and harmony, Ireland has once again been

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

experiencing violent disturbances. The renewed disorder has come after rioting and violence broke on July 11 1996. Three police officers were shot by snipers in Catholic neighbourhoods of Belfast. These attacks were particularly shocking because there had been no such attacks on policemen in several years. Violence throughout the week resulted in 110 police officers and 121 civilians getting injured. About 200 people were arrested.

These disturbances have caused a lot of tension among the people. There is a fear that the country could be heading back towards the spells of violence that had hounded their lives for over twenty five years. Although tension had built up last year too, it had been diffused in a few days.

### BURUNDI

#### Army Chief takes over in a coup

**P**RESIDENT Sylvestre Ntibantunganya of Burundi had to take refuge in the US embassy in Byumba, as Major Pierre Buyoya announced a military takeover of the government in Burundi. Explaining that it was not a routine military coup, he said that it was an effort to stop the ethnic blood letting of last three years. He is a Tutsi, who constitute 15 per cent minority in Burundi and had traditionally been the rulers.

Major Buyoya had been the President of Burundi for six years from 1987, when he seized power from his military predecessor Major Bagaza. In June 1993, he had held a multi-party democratic elections which led to the election of the first Tutsi president in Burundi, Mr Melchior Ndadaye. This was hailed as a peaceful empowerment of majority Hutus in a country dominated by the Tutsi minority for centuries. In October 1993, in an abortive military coup by sections of the Tutsi dominated army, President Ndadaye was killed. The Hutu successor, Cyprien Ntaryamira, was also killed in a mysterious air crash along with the President of neighbouring Rwanda in April 1994. This was followed by large-scale ethnic

genocide in Rwanda with over half a million people being estimated to have been killed. Most of them were Tutsis.

Though, at the time of genocidal Rwandan killings, Burundi, with roughly the same ethnic composition, was relatively

quiet, there was always tension beneath the surface. In last week of June 1996, 300 people, mostly Tutsis, were reported to have been killed by Hutu rebels. The President was stoned while attending the funeral. This prompted the takeover of the government.

### Human Development Report 1996

The UN Human Development Report for 1996 ranks India 125th in the human development index. Based on figures for 1993, India's per capita income was calculated at \$ 1,220, per capita income of the poorest fifth was \$ 337 and the average income of the poorest fifth, as a percentage of average per capita income, was 44 per cent.

The report also says that the living standards worldwide, between the wealthy and the poorest, are widening and in countries like the United States the gaps are wider than ever before. One exception to the scenario of a widening gap between the rich and poor has been the Far East and South East Asian nations, where rapid economic growth has gone almost hand in hand with a fairer distribution of national wealth.

Canada leads the most advanced in general human development, followed by the United States, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway. Russia is 57th, and China is 108th, in a total of 174 countries. The list changes when the status of women and other indicators are factored. Sweden becomes first, Canada second, Japan 12th and USA fourth.

The Indian example suffers in the "Capability Poverty Measure" when the index tries to find "hidden" or "potential" poverty by looking at factors like the percentage of children under five who are underweight, the proportion of unattended births, the ratio of children in school, rate of female literacy, etc.

However, all news is not gloomy in the report. It has also been pointed out that the measure of human development has risen at a faster rate in the last 30 years, in the developing world, than the developed countries achieved in over one century. Life expectancy has shot up by more than 30 per cent and primary school enrolment has increased to 77 per cent.

### Key findings

- Global economic output grew by 40 per cent in the 10 years ending 1985. During that same period, the poor people increased by 17 per cent.
- The assets of world's 358 billionaires exceeded the combined annual incomes of countries accounting for 45 per cent of the total population.
- Compared with 10 years ago, 89 countries are worse off than they were before, majority of them are developing countries. Among rich countries, only Canada, Finland and Iceland are worse off. 70 developing countries have seen income levels fall below levels seen in the 1960s and 1970s.

#### Human Development Index (Total, 174 countries)

- 1 Canada
- 2 United States
- 3 Japan
- 4 The Netherlands
- 5 Norway

The index combines measures of life expectancy, education and basic purchasing power.

# Current General Knowledge

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ISP:** Internet Service Provider  
**MAT:** Minimum Alternative Tax  
**RLV:** Reusable Launch Vehicle  
**SCOPE:** Standing Conference on Public Enterprises

## AWARDS

### Arjuna Awards

**S**EVEN sportsmen have been honoured with the Arjuna Award for 1995. They are: Shakti Singh, Jyotermoy Sikdar (Athletics), Anil Kumble (Cricket), Mahesh Bhupathi (Tennis), Mukesh Kumar, Dhanraj Pillay (Hockey) and V. Devarajan (Boxing).

Malathi K. Krishnamurthy (Athletics) has been given the Arjuna Award for physically handicapped sports and P. Ganeshan (Kabaddi) for indigenous games.

### B.C. Roy Award

**T**HE director of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Dr Surendra Singh Yadav, has been awarded the B. C. Roy Memorial Award as "eminent medical man", by the Medical Council of India. The award has been given for his innovative research in the field of orthopaedic surgery. It comprises a citation, a silver salver and Rs 1 lakh in cash.

### Dadasaheb Phalke Award

**V**ETERAN Kannada film actor, producer and singer Raj Kumar has been selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke award for 1995 for his contribution to the growth of Indian cinema. The award carries a Swarna Kamal and Rs 1 lakh in cash.

### Dronacharya Awards

**S**HYAM Sunder Rao (Volleyball) and Karan Singh (Athletics) have been selected for Dronacharya Awards for coaches this year. The Maulana Azad trophy went to Panjab University, Chandigarh. Guru

Nanak Dev University and Calicut University finished second and third respectively.

### Gujar Mal Modi Award

**D**R A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has been selected for the 1996 Gujar Mal Modi Science Award for 1996, for providing leadership in the development and promotion of science and technology in India.

### JRD Tata Young Entrepreneur Award

**A**NEESHA Began, who runs a herbal cosmetics business called "Amber Enterprises" has been awarded the JRD Tata Young Entrepreneur Award. The award includes a cash prize of Rs 50,000.

### Magsaysay Awards

*For International Understanding.* Reverend Toshihiro Tokami, a Japanese Christian missionary for his work in promoting community leadership in 50 countries. He is the founder of the Asian Rural Institute in Toichigiken, north of Tokyo, which trains 30 Asians and Africans every year for community leadership.

*For Public Service:* South Korean Catholic priest John Oh Woong-Jin, founder of a home for Korea's poor, disabled and elderly. In 1983, he built a refuge for 3,000 orphans, abandoned children, the disabled and the elderly.

*For government service:* India's Chief Election Commissioner Mr T.N. Seshan, for launching a crusade of his own to restore credibility to the electoral system. The awards board noted that when India's politicians proved reluctant to legislate reforms, Seshan launched a crusade of his own and "cowed the high and mighty and restored credibility to the electoral system". The award is known as the Asian equivalent of the

Nobel Prize. The previous Indian awardees include Mr M.S. Swaminathan and Ms Kiran Bedi.

### Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award

**F**ORMER Assam Chief Minister Mr Hiteshwar Saikia has been posthumously awarded the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award for 1995. Social worker Subhadra Joshi also gets the award for her outstanding contribution in the field. The awards carry a citation and Rs 2.5 lakh in cash.

### Vikram Sarabhai Award

**P**ROF U.R. Rao, Space Commissioner and former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been selected for the biennial international Award for 1996. Rao has made a great contribution to the Indian space programme, ushering in total communication revolution through the INSAT system and natural resources survey and management through the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites. He had also initiated the integrated mission for sustainable development in 1992. The award carries a gold medal and a citation.

## CONFERENCE

### International Conference on AIDS

**T**HE 11th International Conference on AIDS, held in Vancouver, was the first international AIDS conference in two years.

The slogan of the conference was "One World, One Hope". About 125 countries were represented among the 10,000 biologists, epidemiologists, social scientists, public health officials and activists. Representatives of drug companies, publishers and reporters were also present.

The conference had a budget of about

\$10 million and was the first one that was self-financed. Previous meetings were largely underwritten by government agencies.

Organisers raised more than \$1 million to pay the travel, registration and hotel expenses of about 1,100 people from the developing world, who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, declined to open the conference, apparently from the pressure it might put on his government to fund another five years of Canada's National AIDS Strategy.

## CYBERSPACE

### Intranetworking

A subsidiary of the Internet, Intranetworking, is revolutionising the communication network in offices. It has gained as a concept in US and Europe and is slowly gaining acceptability in India, in organisations which have Wide Area Networks (WANs).

Intranetworking is basically the use of the Internet to connect all branches of the organisation. The disadvantage is that by putting all information on the Internet, everyone gets free access to it. Special web sites have to be given which are protected by a series of security systems.

Dabur India has already planned to invest in an elaborate networking system to link their plant with corporate headquarters and sales offices. Some go through V-SAT links, but others can intranetwork the entire organisation. The advantage is that while 10 VSAT hubs cost Rs 1 crore, the same number of Intra-links would cost just Rs 15 lakh. The concept, however, is still at an experimental stage and will take time for it to pick up.

### Sikhism on the Internet

THE Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee is now on the Internet. The DSGMC's Internet address, <http://dgmcsikhnet.org>, is aimed at propagating the message of Sikh religion to a vast global audience.

It hopes to develop this site as a provider of knowledge and information on Sikh affairs, history, traditions, language and culture. It will provide Guru Granth

Sahib in three formats, "Reht Maryada" in Punjabi language and its English translation, Life and Teachings of Sikh Gurus, Sikh history and philosophy, culture, traditions and information about gurudwaras.

## PERSONS

### Ali, Aruna Asaf

ARUNA Asaf Ali, who died on July 29, 1996 at the age of 88, was a veteran freedom fighter. Born in 1909, she was married to the late Congress leader M. Asaf Ali. The couple did not have any children. She was imprisoned in 1930 for sedition and in 1932, she courted arrest in the Satyagraha movement. Again in 1941 she was jailed and in 1942 she went underground for participation in the Quit India movement. She was elected Delhi's first mayor in 1958 and was very active in a number of peace and cultural societies.

### Kumar, Raaj

VETERAN film actor Raaj Kumar, who died on July 3, 1996 at the age of 65, had won the hearts of millions of people by his adroit dialogue delivery. He started his career as a police inspector in Jammu and Kashmir and a chance encounter with a visiting producer in the early fifties opened the doors of filmdom to him. His real name was Kulbhushan but was introduced by the name of Raaj Kumar in his first film *Rangili*, released in 1950. He gave a unique style to his movies.

### Kumar, Raj

WINNER of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, Raj Kumar has been with Kannada films since four decades. Born in 1929, he started as a stage artist at the age of eight. He made his debut as a hero in films in 1954 and has since become a living legend of Kannada cinema. Among the awards he has received are the *Padma Bhushan* and the *Karnataka Rathna*. A versatile person, he is actor, producer and singer all in one.

### Seshan, T. N.

TN Seshan has been awarded this year's T Magsaysay Award for government

service for his crusade to restore credibility to the Indian electoral system.

Born in 1932, he was educated at Madras Christian College and after that at the Harvard University in the US. He joined the IAS after that and rose to prominence, especially because of his high degree of integrity and initiative shown in public service. He held several senior posts including that of Cabinet Secretary under late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He was appointed Chief Election Commissioner on December 9, 1990.

### Windhorst, Lars

LARS Windhorst is a teenage business tycoon in Germany. He began his career at the age of 14 by assembling and selling computers. Two years later, he set up his own company with a 100,000 mark bank loan. Windhorst now employs 370 people in industries, including electronics, computers and real estate, with sales claimed to be around 180 million marks (\$120 million) last year.

## PLACES

### Atlanta—Home of the Centennial Olympic Games

ATLANTA, which played host to the Centennial Olympic Games from July 19 to August 4, 1996, is the State capital and largest city in Georgia, in the south-east of USA. It was founded in 1837 and has grown rapidly to become an important city. It is also home to one of most popular products in the world, Coca Cola.

### New name for Madras

WHILE the Tamil Nadu government has decided to change the name of its capital Madras to "Chennai", it has confounded historians that no satisfactory answer has been found as to how Madras got its name.

Historian S. Muthiah says in his book "Madras Discovered" that the word Madras has little or no association with the two major languages of the region—Tamil and Telugu—and answers to the question have "remained singularly unconvincing".

Madras, the first city of the South, is a comparatively new one and it owes its genesis to Andrew Cogan and Francis Day of Johan Company, who were given a land grant by the local *nayaks* (governors) in the 17th century at Poonamallee and founded a trading post. It was to later grow into the seat of British power in the Coromandel coast.

The settlement was known in its early years by such names as Medraspatnam, Madrapatnam and Maddaraspatan (1639) to Maderas and Madirass (1673). Historians say the name Madras gained currency in 1653.

## SPACE

### Lockheed wins NASA's spaceship contest

THE U.S. space agency NASA's first new rocketship in a generation, is a futuristic wedged-shaped spacecraft that will be built by Lockheed Martin Corporation. It will be a fully reusable craft that can take off practically with the ease of an airplane, and NASA hopes it will be able to ferry people and payload into space more cheaply than the fleet of space shuttles.

Lockheed Martin's proposal is the most unusual looking by far. Resembling a horizontal triangle in flight, its X-33 test vehicle will be 20 metres long and 20 metres wide at the tail, with a gross liftoff weight of 124,090 kg.

Lockheed Martin will receive \$900 million from NASA to develop the experimental X-33 and conduct a dozen or so unmanned, suborbital test flights in 1999. Then it will be up to the company and investors to determine whether it is economically feasible to proceed with a twice-as-large operational RLV, or reusable launch vehicle. The company estimates it will cost between four and eight billion dollars to build an RLV system.

Unlike the shuttle, the RLV would be completely reusable, with no throw-away parts. It also would feature more efficient engines, lighter fuel tanks and more durable thermal insulation, all time and cost savers.

## MISCELLANY

### Mughal Road will be open the year round

THE Mughal road revival project, announced by Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda recently as part of an economic package for J & K, will open up a much-needed alternative route from Jammu to Srinagar that could be expected to remain open throughout the year.

There is a fairly good motorable road from Jammu to Thana Mandi in Rajouri district. The Mughal road project will constitute reviving and developing the route beyond Thana Mandi. The 85-km, Rs 78-crore project will go through parts of Rajouri, Pulwama and Srinagar district.

The Mughal route fell into disuse during the time of the Dogra rulers (1846-1947) who built the Jhelum valley road. Later, they also built the Banihal Cart road which, after 1947, was developed into the present national highway.

The all-weather Jhelum Valley road was not available after 1947 as it passed through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

### Human memory chip being developed

BRITISH scientists are working on a device which would help people to preserve their thoughts and experiences. The device, "soulcatcher" memory chip, to be ready in less than 30 years, would be connected to the optical nerve in the eye and would store memory and sensual sensations such as smell, sights and sounds in the form of neutron pulses in the brain, that can later be downloaded into a computer, according to the scientists.

Dr Chris Winter, head of British telecom's artificial life team, that developed the device, said "this is the end of death". He said by combining this information with a record of a person's genes, a person could be recreated physically, emotionally and spiritually.

### Romania top scorer at Maths Olympiad

ROMANIA, the country where the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) took birth 37 years ago, walked away with most of the laurels at the Maths Olympiad held at Mumbai.

The star of the show was 17-year-old Ciprian Manolescu, the only competitor to get a perfect score of 42. He, together with his five teammates, bagged four golds and two silvers.

With a score of 30, Ajay Ramadoss won India its second gold so far. The first gold medal was won by Rina Panigrahi at Beijing in 1990. The Indian team claimed one gold, three silver and one bronze medals.

### Shawl becomes a fashion statement

SHAWL, the drape-around expanse of exquisitely woven wool, has been in India since the Vedic times, but today's young ladies in France, the universal fashion capital, use it as the ultimate in grace and modernity.

Emperor Napoleon's wedding gift to his beautiful wife Maria Louise included 17 shades of this artistic masterpiece.

What started as a handicraft in Kashmir, at the dawn of civilisation, has today grown into a Rs 400-crore industry, with limitless export possibilities waiting to be tapped.

The India Office of the International Wool Secretariat (IWS), after surveys in both the domestic and international markets, has found that the shawl is shedding its traditional image as the wrap around for "the cold and the old".

It is increasingly becoming fashionable among the younger generation and is seen as a clothing accessory with round-the-year utility, just like the tie for men.

Shawls are made in many parts of India, but pre-eminently the art has its domain in Kashmir and Punjab where the shawl-making profession employs about 70,000 people.

The country imports more than 20 lakh kgs of high quality Australian wool for shawls and about 1.1 crore pieces of wool-based shawls are made in the country every year.

But, as of now, only 10 per cent of the output is sold abroad though studies by the IWS have indicated a strong demand among consumers in Japan, France, UK and USA for finer woollen shawls.

# Question Box

**Q. What is the difference between a private company and private sector?**

— *Snigdha Padhi, Ganjam (Orissa)*

**A.** The private sector consists of all companies that are privately owned

**Q. What is IQ? How can I get my IQ tested?**

— *Anuradha Singh, Garhshankar (Punjab)*

**A.** The Intelligent Quotient (IQ) is a measure of intelligence in a person. You can take some tests by a psychologist who can determine your IQ

**Q. I am a graduate with 37% marks. Can I join a management course?**

— *S. Kumar Dutt, Karidhya (Orissa)*

**A.** It is unlikely that you will get an admission in a management course with 37% marks. You should do a vocational course and take up a profession rather than going after further studies

**Q. I want to do an aircraft maintenance course. What are its job prospects?**

— *S. Nambi Rajan, Thachanallur (TN)*

**A.** You should enquire from the institute offering this course about its prospects and whether they help you in finding a job after completion of the course

**Q. What is the benefit of standing first in the IAS examination?**

— *Pintu Das, Tamluk (Orissa)*

**A.** You can join the service of your choice if you are among the top positions. There is no particular benefit of standing first

**Q. I am interested in listening to foreign radio stations. Will an ordinary radio help?**

— *Gaurav Nigam, Bijapur (Karnataka)*

**A.** You need a radio with short-wave. Any ordinary receiver will do. The antenna

must be very good, for which you should check the manufacturer's instructions. Gradually you will come to know which bands are more active at what times and the frequency of radio stations all over the world

**Q. I am an electrical engineer but do not want to do a job. What business can I start?**

— *Ashutosh Dash, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)*

**A.** You can set up a unit to make electrical appliances or electrical components for supply to reputed manufacturers. If you maintain quality, your products will find easy acceptability and you can score over the competition

**Q. What is ATR?**

— *Ram Mohan Kanungo, Cuttack (Orissa)*

**A.** An Action Taken Report (ATR) is a report on what has been done with respect to a particular work

**Q. Which are the government institutes for doing the MBA?**

— *Samita Bhattacharjee, Agartala (Tripura)*

**A.** Most universities could be termed as 'government institutes' and many offer the MBA programme

**Q. What is a city magazine?**

— *Debabrata Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta*

**A.** A city magazine is one which covers a particular city. It will give in detail the activities going on and cover the personalities of the city. These magazines are popular to the local people who want to know what are the events going on

**Q. I do not have maths in my class 12. People tell me there is no career for me. Is that true?**

— *Ashkrit Kumar, Baroda (Gujarat)*

**A.** No. All people who make their

careers are not necessarily students of maths

**Q. What is meant by 'corporate sector'?**

— *Susmita Maharana, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)*

**A.** Companies are corporate entities. The corporate sector thus consists of all such companies

**Q. I do not have a good academic record and earn my living through tuitions. Can I make a career in mathematics?**

— *Raj Kumar, New Delhi*

**A.** If you do not have a good academic record, it is doubtful you can study mathematics and acquire a degree. It would be better to continue with your tuitions

**Q. What is the format of the examination of the IRMA?**

— *Lalit Kumar, Ghaziabad (UP)*

**A.** The format of the IRMA entrance test is like that of other management entrance tests with an emphasis on economy and rural development programmes

**Q. I am doing Agricultural Engineering but want to appear in the IAS examination. Should I leave this course?**

— *Saurabh Srivastava, Allahabad (UP)*

**A.** As entry to the IAS is not a certainty, you should not leave the course you are doing but prepare along with it. In case you do not get through, at least you will have a qualification to fall back upon

**Q. I feel very sleepy at the time of my studies. Please help me overcome this problem.**

— *K. Jaislaxmi, Adra (West Bengal)*

**A.** If you are getting a good night's sleep, there is no reason why you should



feel sleepy. Maybe you are working too long at your books. It is better to study for shorter periods with breaks so that interest is maintained and you are alert.

**Q. I am an arts graduate but I wanted to become a doctor. Should I do class 12 privately and appear in medical entrance?**

—Sandhya Verma, Ghaziabad (UP)

**A.** Though in Western countries one may train for another career even late in life, unfortunately in our country the trend is almost non-existent. We do not know how your family and friends are going to react if you start again in the medical stream. It might be better to reconcile with facts, but if you like the medical line so much, you can look at related careers such as that of fitness and health where you can help people. There is no cause for being frustrated and depressed since there are many things you can still do.

**Q. How can I prepare for JEE and PMT exams and which books should I follow?**

—Souvik Ray, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)

**A.** There are a number of books and correspondence courses on offer for both these exams. Do a survey and select what you think best.

**Q. What is the population density of India?**

—Anil Kumar S., Alwaye (Kerala)

**A.** According to the 1991 census, population density in India is 267 per sq km.

**Q. How many States and Union Territories are there in India?**

—Leena Mukundan, Aswapuram (A.P.)

**A.** There are 26 States and 6 Union Territories in India.

**Q. Why are moral values going down in Indian society?**

—Ashok Kumar Singh, Calcutta

**A.** Change is a law of nature. As the society becomes exposed to outside influences, it will assimilate both good and bad influences. That is why values too keep changing in society.

**Q. What is the meaning of "pressure groups"?**

—P. Sahoo, Bhadrak (Orissa)

**A.** Pressure groups are groups of people who lobby or use other means to apply pressure on policy makers to change their decisions. These groups will also prevent any decisions being taken which are against their interests.

**Q. What is a proxy as used in the Companies Act, 1956?**

—G. Gopal Krishna, Visakhapatnam (A.P.)

**A.** A proxy is someone authorised to act on behalf of another. In the Companies Act, this applies to a proxy vote, where a person may authorise another to vote on his behalf on certain resolutions to be passed by a Company.

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# SPORTS

## CHESS

### World Chess Federation

RUSSIAN grandmaster Anatoly Karpov retained his World Chess Federation (FIDE) title after drawing the match with US challenger Gata Kamsky in the 18th game. The 20-game championship was held in Elista, capital of the Russian republic of Kalmykia. Karpov won the title reaching 10.5 points and a cash prize of \$937,500.

## CRICKET

### India-England Test series

ENGLAND won the Test series against India 1-0, with the Test at Trent Bridge ending in a draw. Morale of the Indian side was at a low ebb with the team caught in unseemingly controversies. Navjot Sidhu walked out of the team, while captain Azharuddin's personal affairs dominated the news.

### England-Pakistan

PAKISTAN swept to a 164-run win in their first Test against England played at Lord's. Mushtaq Ahmed with 5 for 57 and Waqar Younis with 4 for 85 caused England to collapse from 168 for 1 to 243 all out. England thus lost 9 wickets for just 75 runs in a sensational spell on the fifth and final day.

## TENNIS

### Wimbledon, 1996

STEFFI Graf swept Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets to win her seventh Wimbledon title and 20th grand slam championship. Graf overwhelmed Sanchez-Vicario in the first set and held off a second set charge to win 6-3, 7-5 victory in 1 hour 28 minutes. This was Graf's 100th career singles title and moved her within two of Navratilova's record of nine Wimbledon titles.

Dutchman Richard Krajicek won the Wimbledon men's singles title, beating American Malivai Washington 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 with a commanding display of power tennis. He slammed 14 aces to win his first grand slam title.

Martina Hingis (15 years and 282 days) became the youngest ever Wimbledon champion when she and Helena Sukova downed Meredith McGrath and Larisa Nieland to win the women's doubles title.

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# Descriptive Questions

## Improving sanitary conditions in urban areas

**Q.** Suggest three effective measures to improve sanitary conditions in urban areas. Explain how your suggestions will be helpful in the matter.

**Ans.** What harm garbage and unhygienic conditions can do to the people, both physically and emotionally, still stares us in the face in the ugly form of "plague" or any other epidemic which is the direct offshoot of an all round dirt and filth. With urbanisation spreading its fangs with vengeance and new colonies and slums coming into existence without proper sewerage, drainage, roads, garbage disposal etc, the likelihood of people falling victims to one disease or the other is not an imaginary fear but a day-to-day reality that afflicts the vulnerable and the weak, both overtly as well as covertly. The re-appearance of malaria, gastro-enteritis and other ailments, resulting from unsanitary living conditions in urban areas, should make all thinking people sit up and consider the remedial measures before we are caught with cauldron of crisis with unprecedented dimensions. In order to set the things right now, the following measures should be taken with utmost care and caution so that the sanitary conditions prevailing in our urbans do not get further deteriorated.

There is no denying the fact that over the years the quantity and quality of garbage has undergone a sea-change. There has been no corresponding effort and intention on the part of civic authorities to grapple with the problem, with the result that we are face to face with heaps of dirt and filth, almost everywhere in our towns and cities. To make matters worse, people have also stopped to treat health and sani-

tation as urgent and immediate concerns of their concepts and actions. The problem of unsanitary conditions in our urban areas has to be met with a two-pronged attack. The sluggish civic authorities have to be awakened to their responsibilities of keeping the urban areas neat and clean by lifting and disposing of the garbage and also by re-cycling the sewer water into useful purposes. The public at large will have to be involved in the gigantic task of making their surroundings liveable and loveable at all costs.

No new colonies should be sanctioned before proper and adequate civic services are provided there first. It is the height of absurdity to raise colonies or houses first and then think of constructing drains, sewerage facilities and the like later on. Such an approach smacks of ad-hocism or 'putting the cart before the horse'. Slums, wherever they are in existence, should be removed and the slum-dwellers given alternate accommodation provided with all the basic facilities and services.

The use of audio-visual media to educate the people to keep their environment free from garbage and dirt should be made use of. In the school curriculum, special lessons or chapters should be included on sanitation and hygiene so that children learn the art and practice of cleanliness, which is next only to godliness.

## Investment in research and development

**Q.** Some people think that India should not depend on foreign technology alone. Rather, she should invest more in scientific research and development at home. Give three arguments in favour or against the proposition.

**Ans.** In the present day world, scien-

tific research and development have come to occupy the pride of place in the planning and pursuit of national goals of self-reliance and economic resilience. With globalisation the current com, high technology and its demand by developing countries is on the rise and any denial or delay in its delivery can harm the national interests. For a big country like India, it is a matter of serious concern and consideration to become self-supporting, as far as possible, in the areas of scientific innovations and technological advancement. If some people plead that India should spend more on research and development and depend less on second hand foreign technology, there is worth and weight in their proposition.

By any reckoning, UNESCO's first world science report makes dismal reading for all developing countries. The gap between them and industrialised nations in expenditure on scientific research and development appears to be growing wider by the day. If India is to reduce her dependence on imported technology, there is no choice but to substantially increase investment on research and development in national laboratories and other research institutes.

Lest we are caught napping in a critical situation in future, India ought to follow the example of much smaller countries like South Korea, Japan and Taiwan and tailor her research to her growing needs in vital areas of development. Till now, it seems that IITs and other institutes have devoted far too little attention to what is known as appropriate technology. The entire field of non-renewable energy sources has been crying out for further research. Same is the fate of upgrading the entire transport system and other fields of national reconstruction.

tion. In the absence of adequate allocation of funds for research and development, India will have to remain contented with outmoded technology that the advanced countries may offer or withhold at their sweet will.

Whether we relish it or not, the fact is that Indian industry of its own has no stake either in the health or demise of R & D. On the other hand, if the existing laboratories are allowed to decay due to lack of funds, India's foothold in many branches of science and technology will be put to jeopardy. Laboratories, built over the years by foresighted persons, would be destroyed.

### **Total collapse of transport and communications**

**Q. If the vital services like transport and communications collapse all over the world, what will happen? Mention three consequences of such a situation.**

**Ans.** We all know, 'speed and success' and 'commerce and communications' are the outstanding hall-marks of modern civilisation. If by any chance, conflict or calamity, the vital services like transport and tele-communications collapse or disappear from the world, the following consequences are inevitable in all their intensity and intolerance.

Once the all-pervasive means of transport, that operate on land, water and air, and communications, that manifest themselves in the form of telephones, pagers, fax-machine, teleprinters and the like, collapse or disappear, the very face of this world would be totally distorted. Human beings, who have become the slaves of these facilities, would find themselves high and dry in the absence of these services. In fact, it is not only in the very sophisticated areas of activity that the ill-effects of the new situation would be felt but also in the daily routine of life where getting (earning) and spending, bread and butter are the immediate requirements of all human beings.

Millions of workers, experts, engineers etc, whose livelihood, passions and pleasures are intimately linked with the em-

ployment provided by these services, would become jobless. Business-men, industrialists, diplomats and a host of other professionals all over the world would find the going rather tough and with no immediate alternatives available to tide over the problems of distances and direct communication with others, the pattern of life would change for the worse, with unbearable fall-out visible everywhere. With the disappearance of all modes of transport, dependent upon machines and fuel, human beings of all categories would find themselves stranded, looking helpless, hapless and hopeless.

The immediate impact of the new situation would be felt the most in those areas where the carrying of goods like food, medicines, etc is urgent. Perforce, we may have to fall back upon the mediaeval modes of transport like the bullock-cart and the pigeons or runners to carry messages from one place to another. In the absence of communications network, even the security of each country would become vulnerable and a matter of colossal concern. In short, the collapse or disappearance of indispensable services like various means of transport and communications, would adversely affect all the world over and the ill-consequences would be felt in all directions and dimensions.

### **Inflation, prices and wage-freeze**

**Q. In order to curb inflation and price-rise, wages of all categories of employees should be frozen for two years at least. Give your views based on reading, experience and knowledge on the proposition under discussion.**

**Ans.** The question of 'wage-freeze' is closely linked with the economic health of a country. It is only under very trying and tortuous situations like economic emergency, aggression or civil war that an extreme step like 'wage-freeze' is resorted to by the powers-that-be. Such a move also indicates a sense of frustration and failure to manage the affairs of the State. It is agreed on all hands that the proposition

under reference is a bitter pill that the rulers wish to push down the throats of millions living on fixed incomes, in whose case the real value or purchasing power of their take-home salary has been facing a continuous erosion and slide. With inflation and prices showing no decline and always on the move upwards, the proposal to go in for 'wage-freeze' for two years at least is fraught with very unpredictable consequences.

Having indulged in all sorts of populist policies and programmes to play to the gallery for votes and political power, the present situation of 'resources crunch' and mounting deficit in relation to GNP, is not the fault of employees but that of the power-brokers and power-wielders. To ask the employees to tighten their belt when the waist has already been squeezed beyond endurance, is like rubbing salt to the wounds. No trade union worth its name would even consider such a proposal and in the absence of a consensus or mutual agreement between the employers and the employees on such a 'life-and-death issue' no worth-while outcome or rosy result is to take shape. Rather such a move may prove like showing the red rag to the bull.

Instead of talking loose about 'wage-freeze' and adopting half-hearted measures to control inflation and price-rise, wasteful expenditure and fulsome profligacy on the part of government and its multiple agencies and corporations, the planners and policy-makers should take stringent steps to set their house in order. Jumbo-type ministries should be pruned and all uncalled for and superfluous items of expenditure like providing security to one and all, palatial houses to ministers and bureaucrats, perks and privileges to those who can manipulate the strings of State powers, are some of the proposals that should be looked into and executed. Unless the powers-that-be adopt a realistic approach to the burning problems of the country, without looking for short-term gains, it would be a folly to provoke the employees and invite their wrath for nothing.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## UPSC Exam for Recruitment of Administrative Officers in Employees' State Insurance Corporation held on 17th December, 1995

Questions 1-47 had appeared in August '96 issue. The balance questions alongwith complete answers are given below:

### Passage III

'Oh that's easy' replied the old man, 'any one can do that; whatever you love and trust in this world loves you in return. We love the water that makes everything pure and sweet for us, and is never tired of cleansing, and the water loves us in return; any one can walk on it; but won't you teach me that beautiful prayer, the prayer Jesus taught His disciples?'

48. What was that the old man said 'any one can do'?

- (a) To walk on water
- (b) To make the water sweet and pure for our use
- (c) To cleanse and wash everything with water before use
- (d) To keep the source of life-giving water free from pollution

49. What, according to the old man, can enable man to be happy in life?

- (a) Harnessing the power of nature
- (b) Controlling his passion
- (c) Loving and trusting nature
- (d) The renunciation of natural pleasure

50. The old man wanted to be taught that 'beautiful prayer' Jesus taught to His disciples because

- (a) he wanted to escape from his painful life
- (b) it taught the importance of suffering and sacrifice
- (c) it taught the message of love and trust
- (d) it assured a better life after death

51. The old man's mode and manner of speech is that of

- (a) a deeply pious man

- (b) a profound thinker
- (c) an ascetic
- (d) a religious fundamentalist

### Passage IV

The function of education has never been to free the mind and the spirit of man, but to bind them. To the end that the mind and spirit of his children should never escape, Homo sapiens has wanted acquiescence, not originality, from his offspring. It is natural that this should be so, for where every man is unique there is no society, and where there is no society there can be no man. Contemporary American educators think they want creative children, yet it is an open question as to what they expect these children to create. If all through school the young were provoked to question the Ten Commandments, the sanctity of revealed religion, the foundations of patriotism, the two-party system, monogamy and so on, we would have more creativity than we could handle. In teaching our children to accept the fundamentals of social relationships and religious beliefs without question we follow the ancient highways of the human race.

52. According to the above passage, which one of the following statements comes closest to describing the function of education?

- (a) Education is intended to instil originality in the students
- (b) Education paves the way for creating acceptance of social norms
- (c) Education acts as a means of enforcing discipline in society
- (d) Education helps to free the mind of man

53. The reference in the passage to the Ten Commandments has been made by the author to suggest that

- (a) one must try to be a good Christian

- (b) religious beliefs are fundamental to good social relationships
- (c) one should follow the ancient highways of human race
- (d) interrogation of existing beliefs is not fundamental to education

54. According to the passage, which one of the following will be the result of 'having more creativity than we could handle'?

- (a) It will result in acquiescence, not originality
- (b) There will be no society
- (c) Religious beliefs will not be accepted
- (d) The fundamentals of social relationships will come under question

55. Which one of the following statements best reflects the underlying tone of the passage?

- (a) The young should not be provoked to question all the fundamentals of society
- (b) We have to go back to the old ways of teaching
- (c) The two-party system of government should not be questioned
- (d) Every child is unique and the teacher has to encourage his creativity

### RECONSTRUCTING PASSAGE (Items 56 to 60)

#### Directions:

In items 56 to 60 there are six sentences marked S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>6</sub>, P, Q, R, S. The positions of S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>6</sub> are fixed. You are required to choose one of the four alternatives given below every passage which would be the most logical sequence of the sentences in the passage.

Mark your response on the Answer Sheet at the appropriate space.

Example X has been solved for you.

**Example X:**

S<sub>1</sub>: A poor peasant went off early one morning to plough, taking with him for his breakfast a piece of bread.

S<sub>6</sub>: He lifted the coat, but the bread was gone!

P: After a while, when his horse was tired and he was hungry, the peasant stopped ploughing.

Q: He hid it under a bush and started work.

R: He went to get his coat and his breakfast.

S: He got his plough ready and put his coat round the bread.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S Q P R
- (b) Q P R S
- (c) P R S Q
- (d) R S Q P

**Explanation:** The proper sequence in this Example is: SQPR which is marked (a). Therefore 'a' is the correct answer.

**Now attempt items 56 to 60.**

56. S<sub>1</sub>: Suppose that you are engaged in some kind of research.

S<sub>6</sub>: And you may be left totally in the dark about how your discoveries and inventions are being used.

P: So you have no time to consider the effects your discovery may have on the field of medicine.

Q: You are engaged, let us say, in investigating some scientific aspect of medicine.

R: It is possible that someone may make hoardes of money by using your research.

S: The work is difficult and is likely to absorb the whole of your intellectual energy, and time.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q S R P
- (b) Q S P R
- (c) S Q R P
- (d) S Q P R

57. S<sub>1</sub>: It is a remarkable fact and a regrettable fact that in the case of the vast majority of students, whilst they entertain noble impulses during their student days, these disappear when they finish their studies.

S<sub>6</sub>: There is no correspondence between the education that is given and the home life and the village life.

P: Surely there is something wrong in this.

Q: Every educationist, everyone who has had to do with the students, has realised that our educational system is faulty.

R: The vast majority of them look out for loaves and fishes.

S: It does not correspond to the requirements of the country, certainly not to the requirement of a developing country.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) R P S Q
- (b) R P Q S
- (c) P R Q S
- (d) P R S Q

58. S<sub>1</sub>: She went to the party to meet her long-lost friends.

S<sub>6</sub>: Their marriage took place shortly afterwards.

P: He was now well-placed in life and looking for a suitable partner.

Q: One of her neighbours, who had been her senior at school also came there.

R: The parents gave their consent after some initial objections.

S: They were satisfied with each other and approached their parents.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q P R S
- (b) Q P S R
- (c) P S Q R
- (d) P S R Q

59. S<sub>1</sub>: This energy may not be visible on the outside, but matter can be made to yield energy under certain conditions.

S<sub>6</sub>: This is the principle of the atom bomb.

P: We can calculate how much of energy a quantity of wood or coal or oil can give.

Q: When wood or coal burns, energy is given off, that is, the heat can be used to make steam to drive engines.

R: For instance, particles of metal can be split and they will give energy.

S: Things that do not ordinarily burn can also be made to give energy.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) Q P S R
- (b) Q P R S
- (c) R S P Q
- (d) R P Q S

60. S<sub>1</sub>: Many of the activities in today's society are performed by computers.

S<sub>6</sub>: Such care is necessary to keep the computer fully efficient and reliable.

P: Hence it should be installed in a very good room.

Q: That is to protect it from dirt, dust and smoke.

R: The computer is a very sensitive and costly electronic machine.

S: Generally an air-conditioned room is used for this purpose.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) S P Q R
- (b) R P Q S
- (c) R P S Q
- (d) P S R Q

## ANSWERS

1. (c) 'to dispose of all his property'
2. (b) 'the next door'
3. (c) 'for my brother'
4. (b) 'of talent'
5. (a) 'At last the captain said'
6. (a) 'You should not lose your....'
7. (b) 'and unless you hurry'
8. (a) 'I have never seen him wasting his time'
9. (b) 'is different from'
10. (b) 'when the students'
11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (c)
14. (b) 15. (a) 16. (b)
17. (d) 18. (b) 19. (a)
20. (a) 21. (c) 22. (d)
23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (a)
26. (d) 27. (b) 28. (b)
29. (b) 30. (a) 31. (b)
32. (c) 33. (c) 34. (b)
35. (c) 36. (c) 37. (a)
38. (a) 39. (b) 40. (c)
41. (c) 42. (d) 43. (a)
44. (b) 45. (a) 46. (a)
47. (d) 48. (d) 49. (c)
50. (c) 51. (a) 52. (b)
53. (d) 54. (c) 55. (a)
56. (d) 57. (b) 58. (b)
59. (a) 60. (c)

# General Studies

## Solved Questions from the Previous Years' General Studies Papers

**Q. 1. In what way do land reforms help agricultural growth? Briefly state the aim of land reforms as envisaged in the Eighth Five Year Plan. (About 250 words.)**

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 1.** Land reforms is a comprehensive phenomenon. With the advent of Green Revolution in late sixties, the government realised that the agricultural sector could not look up beyond a particular limit if the existing vices and malpractices were not removed. At that point of time, Indian agriculture was marred by large scale tenancies and absentee landlordism, skewed distribution of land holdings, fragmented holdings, problem of landless persons and poor state of land records. The government of India as well as the State governments, enacted several legislations which were aimed at removing the above bottlenecks. In a predominantly agrarian economy like ours, agricultural production and productivity is directly linked with the land reforms, which aim at imposing land ceiling, redistribution of surplus land to the landless, proprietary rights to the tenants, updating of land records and consolidation of holdings. All these measures help in bringing the land under healthy and economic practices. Most of the States in India have already implemented the above mentioned land reforms. Progress in a few States has been very good, while some States are still struggling with the implementation of these reforms, which is replete with legal and political hurdles. All this has significantly contributed to the increase in agricultural production in the country, supplementing the measures like providing irrigation facilities, providing high yielding varieties of seeds and use of chemical fertilizers.

The aim of land reforms as envisaged in the Eighth Five Year Plan is fulfilment of all the five principles of National Land Reforms Policy i.e., abolition of intermediaries, tenancy reforms with ownership rights to the actual cultivators, redistribution of surplus ceiling land, consolidation of holdings and updating of land records. Landlessness is the root cause of poverty in rural areas. In a country like ours where about 70 per cent population is dependent on agriculture, access to and ownership of land is a major source of employment and income.

The thrust of the Eighth Plan is towards recording the rights of tenants and share-croppers with the objective of giving them security of tenure. The allottees of surplus land and tenants are to be provided with a package of modern inputs to enhance the yield from their lands. This strategy would meet the twin objective of poverty alleviation and growth of agricultural output. Consolidation of holdings is also to be made compulsory in the command areas of large irrigation projects.

**Q. 2. What is AIDS? Describe its salient features. (About 250 words.)**

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 2.** Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a newly discovered disease which was discovered for the first time in 1981 in USA. Most of the diseases which are caused by infectious organisms can be prevented by vaccination. Diseases like small-pox have almost been wiped out of the face of humanity. AIDS, however, is causing a fresh and extremely serious challenge to the medical research in the world, with no known cure or vaccine available to combat it. AIDS virus

destroys the body's natural immune system against the diseases and the affected person becomes susceptible to all kind of diseases and slowly comes closer to death.

The deadly disease has several features. AIDS is a specific clinical entity associated with infection by a virus, a retrovirus called Human T-Lymphotropic Virus Type-III (HTLV-III) or LAV (Lymphadenopathy-Associated Virus) depending upon the manner in which the virus was isolated by various research groups. This virus is collectively called Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV). The virus may take at an average 8 to 10 years' time to completely destroy the immune system of the body. The disease is transmitted only through sexual intercourse and infected blood contacts. Homosexual men and intravenous drug abusers form the highest risk group, but transmission may occur by heterosexual intercourse, dentists' tools, blood donation/transfusion etc also. The virus primarily destroys a type of white blood cells (T4 Lymphocytes) of the affected persons. This results in abolition of body resistance to infections and even relatively insignificant organ-

*This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. October '96 issue will also incorporate questions from previous papers, November '96 and December '96 issues will carry expected questions. Readers are invited to send us any specific topic or question that they would like us to include in this feature.*



isms can cause life threatening infections. Casual contact with the patients or mosquito bites have not shown to transmit the virus.

Infected mothers can transmit the disease to their children during pregnancy itself. Hence, the mode of transmission of the disease puts women and children in high risk group of population. As per one World Health Organisation (WHO) report, one new person is infected with AIDS every 15 to 20 seconds and it is estimated that by turn of the century there would be 40 to 120 million HIV infections with 90 per cent of them in the developing countries. AIDS infection is spreading rapidly in India too. In 1992 the estimated number of AIDS-affected persons was between 5 to 10 lakh and it is further estimated that by the year 2000 AD, there would be over one million AIDS patients in India.

**Q. 3. Answer any two of the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words.)**

- (a) Explain the functions of the Estimates Committee.
- (b) Describe the non-federal features of the Council of States.
- (c) What are the Constitutional Rights of the Citizens of India? What do you think about the demand of the NRIs for dual citizenship?
- (d) Describe the salient features of Anti-Defection Law.

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 3. (a)** Estimates Committee is a Constitutional Committee of the Parliament to monitor the financial system. After the government proposes expenditure on different items, the Estimates Committee carries out a scrutiny of the expenditure proposed. This annually constituted Committee examines the proposed estimates with a view to:

- (i) report to the House about the economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reforms proposed by it, consistent with the policy behind the proposed estimates;
- (ii) suggest alternate policies with a view to bring about efficiency and economy in the administration;
- (iii) examine and recommend whether the funds are provided by remaining within the limits of the policy envisaged in the estimates; and
- (iv) suggest and recommend the form in which the proposed estimates are to be presented to the Parliament.

The report of the Estimates Committee also exerts informal but institutional influence in checking the extravagance in the government proposals or the estimates for the coming year and exercises great influence in the matter of modifying, remoulding and re-adjusting the estimates.

**Ans. 3. (b)** In every federal system, the Council of States is generally called the Upper House because of its importance in the federation. But, Council of States (Rajya Sabha) in India has several non-federal features, which are as under:

- (i) The number of members from each State is not proportional to the population of the States, nor is the number of members from each State equal.
- (ii) House of People (Lok Sabha) enjoys more financial powers, which have been kept in its sole preview. A weaker position of the Council of States in this regard is a non-federal feature.

(iii) Council of States, by a special resolutions supported by not less than two third of its members present and voting may, authorise the Parliament, if it is necessary in the national interest to legislate in the matters specified even in the State List. This provision of Article 249 underlines a non-federal feature of Council of States.

(iv) Article 312 of the Constitution also empowers the Council of States to authorise the Parliament to make legislation providing for creation of one or more All-India Services, common to the Union and the States. But such an empowerment can be given to the Parliament by the Council of States if a resolution is supported by not less than two-third of the members present and voting, if it is in the national interest to do so. It is a non-federal feature, as it authorises the Parliament to enact in a matter primarily related with the States.

**Ans. 3. (c)** Indian Constitution seeks to confer certain rights and privileges upon the Indian citizens, which are denied to the foreigners. The following are the rights of citizens of India as provided in Indian Constitution:

(i) Some of the fundamental rights, including protection against discrimination (Article 15), equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16), and freedoms of speech, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19) are available to the citizens only.

(ii) Only citizens of India are eligible to be elected/appointed to certain offices like President, Vice-President, Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court, Governor of a State, Attorney General, Advocate General etc.

(iii) The rights of suffrage for election to the House of People and Legislative Assembly of every State and the right to become a member of the Parliament and a State Legislature are also restricted to the Indian Citizens only.

Indian citizens are further entitled to the benefit of procedural benefits in clause 1 and 2 of Article 22, pertaining to arrest and detention, which is not available to the enemy aliens. In addition, citizens of India also enjoy all the rights conferred by various statutes, acts passed by the Parliament and State Assemblies concerned and rules framed there-under, and other rights accruing due to administrative instructions and orders of the government.

Indian Constitution envisages single citizenship and the system of dual citizenship available in the United States of America is not adopted. This is a feature which provides unitary bias to the Indian federation. In a system with dual citizenship, both the federal and provincial governments operate directly upon the citizens who are the subject of both the governments and owe allegiance to both the governments. The demand of some Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to give dual citizenship is ill founded. They have gone a step ahead and demanded citizenship of two countries i.e., the country of their present residence as well as India. Such a demand is not only against the spirit of the Constitution, but also runs contrary to the basic structure of the Constitution also and may not be able to stand the test of law and judicial review.

**Ans. 3. (d)** The Anti-defection Law was introduced in the Constitution of India in 1985 by way of 52nd Amendment to the Constitution. The following are the salient features of the said Act:

(i) A member of the Parliament or State Legislature belonging to any political party shall be disqualified from the membership of that House if he has voluntarily given up his membership of such political party, or if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any decisions issued by the political party to which he belongs or by any person or authority authorised by it in this behalf, without obtaining, in either case, the prior permission of such a political party, person or authority, and such voting or abstention has not been condoned by such political party, person or authority within 15 days from the date of such voting or abstention.

(ii) An elected member of a House who has been elected as an independent shall be disqualified from being the member of that House if he joins any political party after elections.

(iii) A nominated member of a House shall be disqualified for being the member of a House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the date of which he takes his seat after complying with the requirements of Articles 99 or 188, as the case may be.

**Q. 4.** How did the outbreak of Second World War affect India's political scene? Did the Cripps Mission resolve the political crisis in India? (About 250 words)

*Civil Services (Main) 1994*

**Ans. 4.** After the outbreak of Second World War, the British Government declared that India was also a warring nation against the Axis forces. The Indian National Congress resented the decision, as it was taken without taking the Indians into confidence. Ministries in eight provinces resigned against this decision in October 1939. But, by middle of 1940 France and Britain were devastated by air attacks. It was at this point of time that Mahatma Gandhi declared that the Congress was willing to cooperate provided that India's right to self-governance was accepted after the war and a provisional government, consisting of all important political parties was installed as interim arrangement. This offer was rejected, but on August 8, 1940, Lord Linlithgow issued a statement, also called the "August Offer", seeking cooperation of Indians on the following conditions:

(a) The governance of India would not be handed over to any such organisation which would be opposed by any large and powerful element in India's national life.

(b) Indians had the right to frame their own Constitution and Assembly for this purpose would be set up after the war.

(c) A Defence Advisory Committee including Indians would be framed immediately after the war.

The Congress rejected the offer and there was a deadlock. But as the Allies suffered one setback after the other, Prime Minister Winston Churchill deputed Cripps Mission to India. Cripps Mission, headed by Sir Stafford Cripps, came to India on March 23, 1942 and put up the following proposals:

(a) India would be granted full dominion status and the right

to secede from the British Commonwealth of Nations. Special protection was to be provided to the religious minorities.

(b) After the war a Constituent Assembly would be framed including the Indian representatives and representatives from the princely States. States would be free either to adhere to the Constitution or not.

(c) By the time the new Constitution was framed, the British Government would retain the control of defence of India through Government of India.

The proposals were rejected by Indian leaders as these indirectly accepted the demand of Pakistan, allowed the princely States to remain out of the new Union and no time limit was prescribed for grant of Dominion Status. Muslim League also rejected the proposals as the demand of Pakistan was not clearly accepted. The Cripps Mission, therefore, failed to resolve the deadlock and crisis and it was followed up by the call for "Quit India".

**Q. 5. Answer any two of the following:** (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words.)

(a) Where do we find large desert areas in India? What steps have been taken by the government for their development?

(b) What measures have been taken by the government of India to develop own sources for the supply of petroleum crude? Discuss the measures of success achieved in this regard.

(c) Why are floods such a recurrent feature in India? Discuss the measures taken by the government for flood control.

(d) What are the important wheat growing regions in India and why? Are we growing enough wheat in India to meet our demand for it?

*Civil Services (Main) 1985*

**Ans. 5. (a)** Large desert areas in India are mostly found in the State of Rajasthan. However, hot deserts are also found in the States of Gujarat and Haryana. In addition, India also has cold deserts in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The total area of desert is about 3.62 lakh square kilometres with a population of about 15 million living in them (Source: Eighth Plan document). This area and population is spread in 131 blocks of 21 districts in 5 States mentioned above.

The Government of India, in the year 1977-78, initiated a programme known as Desert Development Programme (DDP) for the development of desert areas, on the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture. The main aim of the programme is to control the desertification, on the one hand, and to ensure rapid economic development of these areas, on the other. The activities which are funded by the government under the DDP include mitigating the effects of droughts in these areas, restoring the ecological balance, raising the productivity of land and controlling the desertification. Specific activities include land development and shaping, development of water sources, afforestation, pasture development and other area specific developmental activities. 100 per cent assistance under the project is provided by the Central Government. During the Eighth Plan period, the allocations were made at the rate of Rs 24 lakh per 1000 square kms, with a ceiling of Rs 500 lakh per district. For cold

desert areas a lump sum provision is made which is Rs 100 lakh per district for Himachal Pradesh and Rs 150 lakh per district for Jammu and Kashmir. The Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission carries out the monitoring and evaluation of this programme to assess its impact on the area concerned and lives of its people.

**Ans. 5. (b)** After the Oil crisis of seventies, the Government of India has been paying great attention to the matters relating to develop own sources of supply of crude oil. The following are some of the measures:

(i) High targets were kept for ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Commission) and OIL (Oil India Limited) during the 7th and 8th Plans for oil exploration and crude oil production. Reserve-to-production ratio at the end of Seventh Plan was as high as 21 : 1 as compared to 17 : 1 at the beginning of the Plan.

(ii) The government has recently opened up oil and natural gas sector. ONGC has been converted into a corporation with effect from February 1, 1994, with a view to introduce control, independent functioning and professionalism.

(iii) The government has already invited bids for private participation in the exploration activity and work of crude exploration has been given to many private concerns.

(iv) Under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme, 22 bids for seven blocks were received which are under consideration of the Government. Under these Joint Ventures, ONGC and OIL will have a participating interest ranging between 25 to 49 per cent from the beginning of the contract and the exploration period will not exceed 6 years.

(v) The government has also offered already discovered medium and small sized oil and gas fields for development to the private companies for accelerating the production. Government has already given 13 small-sized and 5 medium-sized such fields to the private parties.

(vi) The government is encouraging the acquisition of exploration and development acreages abroad by the national oil companies. Oil and Natural Gas Videsh Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC) already have an off-shore venture in Vietnam. Another such joint venture in Egypt has also been approved.

In the beginning the national oil exploration companies started with great fanfare and their performance also appeared to be satisfactory upto mid-eighties. But, after that there has been a virtual stagnation in crude oil production, while the demand for petroleum products has risen rapidly. Between 1984-85 to 1991-92, the total crude production hovered around 30 million tonnes, with the peak level of 34.00 M.T. achieved during 1989-90. As per the latest Economic Survey for 1995-96, the crude oil production dipped to 27 million tonnes during 1993-94 only to be propped up to 32.2 million tonnes during 1994-95. The consumption of petroleum products in the year 1994-95 was 65.5 million tonnes. This also results in rising petroleum imports year after year. The measures taken by the government so far, to develop own sources for supply of crude oil, have not met with the desired success. However, the measures initiated recently may show positive re-

sults in the years to come.

**Ans. 5. (c)** Floods are a regular feature in India, particularly in Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern parts of the country. An area of about 40 million hectares (one-eighth of total geographical area of the country) is flood-prone in India. On an average, every year about 7.7 million hectares of area is affected by floods. Out of this 3.5 million hectares is cropped area. Around 1500 lives are lost every year due to floods. In 1977 alone a total number of 11,316 lives were lost. The total loss caused by floods, to the private and public property, including the crops, between 1953 to 1987, was to the tune of Rs 26,800 crore. The maximum damage is estimated to have been done in the year 1985 when the flood-damage was Rs 4059 crore. Due to the following reasons, floods are a recurrent feature in India:

(i) One of the important reasons is the geographical location of the flood-prone areas. Most of the flood-prone areas are on the banks of the perennial rivers flowing down from the Himalayas. The peak time for melting of snow in the Himalayas is also July and August and when these months receive heavy rainfall, melting of snow is further expedited, resulting in sudden increase in the volume of water in the rivers of flood-prone areas.

(ii) India has not been able to tap the hydro-electric potential and most of the devastating rivers like Brahmaputra and Ganga are not having the required number of dams, mainly due to paucity of funds.

(iii) Historically, people have settled on the banks of rivers to take advantage of the fertility of alluvial soils and whenever there is a sudden rise in the water level, extensive damage is done to life and property.

(iv) Deforestation in the hilly regions also causes floods, as the water-holding capacity of the soil is reduced to minimum and immediately after the rains, the entire water flows downwards.

(v) Lack of well developed and modern flood forecasting means is yet another reason which makes India prone to floods.

The government has taken several measures to control the incidence of floods. As per the Eighth Plan document, between 1954 and 1989, about Rs 2500 crore has been directly invested in the flood control measures. This included construction of new embankments, drainage channels, afforestation and raising the level of 4700 villages. In all, an estimated 135 million hectares of land has been protected by these measures. Close coordination has been sought between various agencies like Indian Meteorology Department, National Remote Sensing Agency and Indian Space Research Organisation to ensure correct and timely flood forecasting. At present 157 flood forecasting stations are operating. Brahmaputra Flood Control Master Plan is being operationalised and Ganga Flood Control Plan is also being framed and implemented. New Hydel projects and dams which are being planned and executed would also go a long way in reducing considerably the havoc caused by floods every year.

**Ans. 5. (d)** Economic Survey for 1995-96 identifies Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan as major wheat-growing States in India. Growing of a

particular cereal in particular areas depends on several factors. Traditionally, eating habits have evolved cropping patterns over years. The areas where wheat is mostly grown, have maximum wheat-eating persons. Secondly, the agro-climatic conditions in these areas favour the cultivation of wheat. In addition, the Agriculture Universities in this region have developed many high-yielding varieties of wheat, which has prompted the farmers to go in for wheat cultivation. Moreover, the green revolution has also had its impact.

The production of wheat has increased dramatically during the past five decades. During 1950-51, the total wheat production in the country was just 6.46 million tonnes. In 1995-96, wheat production touched a new peak of 65.50 million tonnes, an increase of over 10-times in 45 years. The production of wheat in India is enough to meet our own demand and the buffer stocks are piling up. Public food stocks were as high as 36 million tonnes in July 1995. The export of foodgrains, among other measures, had to be stepped up to reduce the foodgrain stocks and export of cereals, including wheat, which was to the tune of \$ 421.1 million during 1993-94, rose rapidly to \$ 504.9 million during the six-month period of April-September 1995-96.

**Q. 6. Answer the following:** (*Answer to each question should be in about 150 words.*)

(a) Describe the important new techniques which are being introduced in India for crop improvement.

(b) It has been estimated that there are 4 million leprosy patients in India. What steps are being taken by the government of India for their treatment and rehabilitation?

(c) What are the non-conventional sources of energy relevant in the Indian context? Comment on the status of the technologies available for their utilisation.

*Civil Services (Main) 1989*

**Ans. 6. (a)** Eighth Five Year Plan aims at introducing new technologies and programmes for crop development and improvement. These include Special Foodgrain Production Programme in respect of wheat, rice, coarse cereals, as well as development programmes for oilseeds, pulses, cotton development etc. The focus of these programmes is to extend new technologies among the farmers, mainly by way of arranging demonstrations of new technologies to groups of farmers. Special efforts are being made to reorient the programmes to address them to the basic constraints faced by the farmers in the States like Bihar, MP, Eastern UP and the North-East, where productivity is low.

Some of the important new techniques which are being introduced in improvement of crop management in India include Integrated Post Management Techniques, superior and modern post-harvest technologies, technologies relating to standardising harvesting practices, processing and transportation technologies etc. In addition, development of smaller tractors, improved tools and appliances are also in progress. Development of energy efficient water lifting devices is another significant area. Crop specific technologies for horticulture and other cash crop are also

being introduced.

**Ans. 6. (b)** The government has taken several measures for treatment and rehabilitation of leprosy patients in India. A 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme, called Leprosy Eradication Programme, aims at early case detection, early treatment and health education. There are in all 201 endemic districts and 41 low endemic districts identified in India upto March, 1991 and Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) has been introduced in all these districts. Under the Leprosy eradication programme the following actions are being taken for treatment and rehabilitation of the affected persons:

(i) Additional physical facilities are being created in all the endemic districts to ensure that more and more persons/patients are treated and hospitalised.

(ii) MDT is being extended to other districts also to reduce the overall incidence of this disease in future.

(iii) Training of health staff in leprosy eradication is yet another step.

(iv) Wide publicity is being given to inform affected people to come forward for cure as well as for their rehabilitation.

(v) In the districts which have been covered under the MDT, vocational and rehabilitational facilities have been created for the benefit of patients declared cured.

**Ans. 6. (c)** In addition to the conventional sources of energy like coal, power and nuclear power, there are various other non-conventional sources of energy. In Indian context such energy include biogas, solar thermal energy, solar photovoltaics, wind energy, tidal energy, and bio-mass. Their status and utilisation in India is as under:

(i) **Biogas:** There were over 14 lakh biogas plants in India by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. Government provides subsidy and encourages people to set up this cheap means of family fuel in the rural areas. But the advent of LPG even in the rural areas has reduced the demand for biogas plants.

(ii) **Solar Thermal Energy:** During the Seventh Plan, manufacturing base for solar thermal energy in India was developed, specially for solar cookers and solar heating system. Preparatory work for setting up a solar thermal plant in Rajasthan is also under-way. National Solar Energy Centre has been set up in Haryana.

(iii) **Solar Photovoltaics (SPVs):** Single crystalline SPV cells are being manufactured in the country by the Central Electronics Ltd and BHEL. Solar PV cells are being utilised under the rural electrification programmes in remote villages where extension of central power grid is not possible. High initial cost of SPV cells continues to be the major constraint.

(iv) **Wind Energy:** During the Seventh Plan about 32 Megawatt capacity wind farms have been set up in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Maharashtra. Wind machines of 55 KW Unit size capacity are already being manufactured by BHEL and new 200 KW machines are now ready for commercial production in India. The technology has been indigenised and a few

private companies/joint ventures are coming forward in the field.

(v) **Tidal Energy:** Some coastal areas also have potential for tidal energy, but the technology is not fully developed and is still at R & D stage in India.

**Q. 7.** The text below given the admission figures in a University consisting of Arts and Science faculties only, during the year 1986, 1987 and 1988:

"The total number of students in 1986 was 6500. It increased by 8% in 1987 and further increased by 10% in 1988. The number

of female students was 1000 in 1986, it increased by 12 per cent in 1987 and further increased by 10 per cent in 1988. Among the female students, number of Science Students was 325, 396 and 473 in 1986, 1987 and 1988, respectively. Among the male students the number of arts students was 4805, 5030 and 5362, respectively in the three years."

**Present the information in a tabular form. Also Calculate the percentage increase of male students in 1988 as compared to 1986.**

*Civil Services (Main) 1994*

**Ans. 7.** The above information can be presented in a tabular form as under:

**Admission Figures in a University consisting of Arts and Science Faculties from 1986 to 1988**

Category	Arts			Science			Total		
Year	Male (a)	Female (b)	Total (c) (a+b)	Male (d)	Female (e)	Total (f) (d+e)	Male (g) (a+d)	Female (h) (b+e)	Total (i) (c+f)
1986	<u>4805</u>	675	5480	695	<u>325</u>	1020	5500	<u>1000</u>	<u>6500</u>
1987	<u>5030</u>	724	5754	870	<u>396</u>	1266	5900	1120	7020
1988	<u>5362</u>	759	6121	1128	<u>473</u>	1601	6490	1232	7722

**Calculation Hints:**

(a) Under-lined figures were already given.

(b) Total number of students have been calculated by calculating 8% of 6500 (in (i) above) and then adding to 6500. Total No. of students for 1988 has been calculated similarly by calculating 10 per cent of 7020 and adding it to 7020.

(c) Then total number of female students is calculated in the similar fashion, as per given percentages.

(d) Then number of males is calculated for every year, by deducting the number of female students out of total number of students.

(e) No. of female students in science is given for every year. By deducting this number from the total No. of female students in col. (h), we get number of female students in Arts (Column b).

(f) Number of female students in Arts is given. Number of male students in science is obtained by deducting the number of students in Arts from the total number of male students, in column (g).

Percentage increase of male students in 1988 as compared to 1986 can be calculated as under:

Male students in 1986 = 5500

Male students in 1988 = 6490

Total increase = 990 (6490 - 5500)

Percentage of increase =  $\frac{990 \times 100}{5500} = 18$  per cent

**Q. 8.** State whether the following statements are true or false.

**Give reasons for your answers:**

(i) It is dangerous to lie in bed as about 99 per cent of deaths so far occurred have been in bed.

(ii) Female workers in a factory are more punctual than male workers since percentage of female and male persons coming on time are 90 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively.

(iii) Road conditions have not necessarily improved because the number of road accidents have diminished.

**Ans. 8.** (i) The statement is wrong. The statistics have been wrongly given. Mostly the persons who die are bed-ridden hence 99 per cent people dying have to be in bed. The correct inference can be drawn only if the figures/statistics are given in the manner that at an average how many persons die between their going to bed in night and waking up in the morning, for the entire population, everyday.

(ii) The information is inadequate. The statement of punctuality has been made about male and female workers, while the coming on time has been reflected about the persons and not workers. Hence, on the basis of given information, the statement is not correct.

(iii) The statement is correct, as the number of accidents is not related to the condition of the roads only. Hence, just because the number of road accidents have reduced, it cannot be said with certainty that the road conditions have improved.

# GENERAL AWARENESS

## National Defence Academy Exam, April 1996

We are grateful to Mr Rohit Dhanjal of New Delhi for sending the question booklet to us.

1. That the earth is rotating on its axis is established by the fact that:

- (a) the moon and stars move in the sky
- (b) the earth experiences day and night
- (c) the planetary winds are blowing
- (d) the time in different parts of the earth is not the same

2. The latitudinal extent of India is:

- (a)  $9^{\circ} 4' 28''$  N to  $38^{\circ} 17' 53''$  N
- (b)  $10^{\circ} 4' 28''$  N to  $39^{\circ} 17' 53''$  N
- (c)  $8^{\circ} 4' 28''$  N to  $37^{\circ} 17' 53''$  N
- (d)  $9^{\circ} 4' 28''$  N to  $36^{\circ} 17' 53''$  N

3. When it is 12:00 hrs noon in India, in another country it is 9:30 a.m. In which direction from India is this country located?

- (a) North (b) South (c) East (d) West

4. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

List I  
(Metamorphic Rock)

- A. Gneiss
- B. Marble
- C. Quartzite
- D. Slate

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 2	3	4	1
(b) 4	3	1	2
(c) 3	4	1	2
(d) 1	2	4	3

List II  
(Original Rock)

- 1. Sandstone
- 2. Shale
- 3. Limestone
- 4. Granite

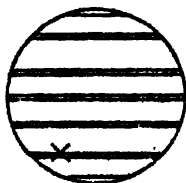
5. The process of disintegration of rocks without changing their chemical composition is:

- (a) Exfoliation (b) Carbonation
- (c) Oxidation (d) Hydration

6. Which one of the following places is known for volcanic activity?

- (a) Lakshadweep (b) Nicobar island
- (c) Minicoy island (d) Barren island

7. Consider the diagram given below:



The pressure belt marked in the diagram as X is

- (a) Doldrum Low (b) Sub-tropical High
- (c) Sub-polar Low (d) Polar High

8. The tropical cyclones often follow the direction of movement from:

- (a) south to north (b) east to west
- (c) west to east (d) north to south

9. Funnel shaped cloud with violent whirl winds are named as:

- (a) tsunami (b) cirrus
- (c) tornado (d) stratus

10. Which one of the following States has maximum area under forest?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Assam

11. The climate of India is typically:

- (a) subtropical (b) tropical
- (c) torrid (d) tropical monsoonal

12. Malanjkhand copper mines are located in:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Bihar
- (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat

13. The type of soil spread over large areas in the northern plains of India is:

- (a) red soil (b) black soil
- (c) laterite soil (d) alluvial soil

14. The highest yield of rice per hectare in India is in:

- (a) Punjab (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka (d) West Bengal

15. Which one of the following ports was developed first after independence?

- (a) Paradip (b) Tuticorin
- (c) Marmugao (d) Kandla

16. In India the major export of iron ore is from:

- (a) Visakhapatnam (b) Paradip
- (c) Marmugao (d) Haldia

17. The number of females to every 1000 males in India according to the 1991 census was:

- (a) 972 (b) 950 (c) 929 (d) 919

18. Which one of the following is the youngest folded mountain range in India?

- (a) Aravalli Hills (b) Eastern Ghats
- (c) Western Ghats (d) Himalayas

19. Which one of the following is the source for the extraction of aluminium?

- (a) Hematite (b) Magnetite
- (c) Bauxite (d) Gypsum

20. Of the four rivers mentioned below, the one that does not make a delta is:

- (a) Ganga (b) Tapi
- (c) Godavari (d) Mahanadi

21. The Vedic god to whom largest number of hymns are addressed in the Rigveda is

- (a) Varuna (b) Rudra
- (c) Indra (d) Agni

22. Which one of the following was an ancient janapada?

- (a) Panchala (b) Tamralipti
- (c) Amaravati (d) Kanchipuram

23. Even though the edicts of Asoka were written in various scripts, the majority of them are in:

- (a) Brahmi (b) Kharoshti
- (c) Aramaic (d) Greek

24. Who among the following explained that the earth

moves round the sun?

- (a) Aryabhatta (b) Vatsyayana
- (c) Susruta (d) Vishnugupta

25. The *Akbarnama* was written by

- (a) Abul Fazl (b) Ibn Batutah
- (c) Badauni (d) Ferishta

26. The Permanent Settlement was introduced by Cornwallis in 1793 in:

- (a) Madras and Bombay (b) Bihar and Madras
- (c) Bengal and Bihar (d) Bengal and Bombay

27. Who among the following was associated with the Azad Hind Fauj?

- (a) Sarat Chandra Bose (b) Shah Nawaz Khan
- (c) Asaf Ali (d) Ali Zaheer

28. The President of the Constituent Assembly of India was:

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Rajendra Prasad
- (c) B.R. Ambedkar (d) Alladi Krishnaswami

29. The First Five-Year Plan was launched in India in the year:

- (a) 1947 (b) 1948 (c) 1951 (d) 1952

30. Each Community Development Project covers a population of

- (a) 1 lakh people (b) 2 lakh people
- (c) 4 lakh people (d) 5 lakh people

31. Panchayati Raj is organized at the:

- (a) village level (b) village and block levels
- (c) village, block and district levels
- (d) village, block, district and State levels

32. The Constitution of India has laid down that the two Houses of Parliament must be summoned at least:

- (a) once a year (b) twice a year
- (c) thrice a year (d) four times a year

33. In a sense the political guru of Gandhiji was

- (a) Motilal Nehru (b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (c) Dadabhai Nauroji (d) Surendra Nath Banerjee

34. The Declaration of Independence of the American Colonies was adopted by the Continental Congress on 4 July, 1776 at:

- (a) Washington D.C. (b) New York
- (c) Chicago (d) Philadelphia

35. The famous 'Tennis Court Oath' is associated with the:

- (a) American war of Independence
- (b) French Revolution
- (c) Emperor Czar Alexander
- (d) Italian Renaissance

36. Which of the following were reasons that necessitated the geographical discoveries in Europe at the end of mediaeval ages?

1. Difficulties in trading with the East after the fall of Constantinople to Turkey
2. Desire of Christian missionaries to propagate their religion in other parts of the world
3. Industrial progress in Germany
4. Search for new markets

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1, 3 and 4

37. Which one of the following was not a principle in the 'Panchsheel' as enunciated in the Sino-Indian agreement in 1954?

- (a) Peaceful co-existence
- (b) Mutual respect for territorial integrity

(c) Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs

(d) Mutual help in times of need

38. Who among the following Communists of India played a notable role in the world communist movement?

- (a) A.K. Gopalan (b) S.A. Dange
- (c) M.N. Roy (d) E.M.S. Namboodripad

39. Who among the following were the founding fathers of Non-Aligned Movement?

- (a) Nehru and Nasser
- (b) Nehru, Nasser and Ho-Chi Min
- (c) Nehru, Nasser and Tito
- (d) Nehru and Ho-Chi Min

40. The five permanent members of the Security Council of the U.N. are

- (a) China, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States
- (b) China, Italy, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States
- (c) China, Canada, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States
- (d) China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States

41. Who among the following became the Prime Minister of Israel after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin?

- (a) Ehud Barak (b) Yitzhak Shamir
- (c) Benjamin Netanyahu (d) Shimon Peres

42. The Nigerian statesman who has been awarded the Indira Gandhi International Prize for Peace this year is

- (a) Gen Olusegun Obasanjo (b) Ken Saro-wiwa
- (c) Shugu Yar Adua (d) Moshood Abiola

43. In which of the following countries of Africa was there a military coup in January, 1996 which overthrew a democratically elected government?

- (a) Niger (b) Liberia
- (c) Sudan (d) Barkino Faso

44. Purulia figured in news recently in the context of:

- (a) the launching of the surface to surface missile *Prithvi*
- (b) dropping of arms and ammunition from a plane
- (c) the outbreak of fire in which about 400 people were killed
- (d) the observing of the total solar eclipse there for purposes of astronomical research

45. The winner of this year's Gnanpith award is:

- (a) Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai
- (b) Vaikom Mohammad Basheer
- (c) Madathu Thekkepattu Vasudevan Nair
- (d) S.K. Pottekatt

46. The Shan people demanding self-determination are active in:

- (a) Thailand (b) Laos
- (c) Myanmar (d) Sri Lanka

47. The States that are party to the dispute regarding the Ravi and Beas water are:

- (a) Punjab and Haryana
- (b) Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan
- (c) Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

48. Which of the following States are ruled by the Janata Dal at present?

- 1. Orissa 2. Bihar
- 3. Karnataka 4. Gujarat



Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3  
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 2 and 4

49. Which one of the following statements about the Election Commission is correct?

- (a) According to a judgement of the Supreme Court the members of the Election Commission have equal powers with the Chief Election Commissioner  
(b) The Chief Election Commissioner has overriding authority in the Election Commission  
(c) The members of the Election Commission are appointed by the Chief Election Commissioner  
(d) Only those who can be appointed as judges of a High Court can be appointed as members of the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner

50. During 1995-96 France has carried out several nuclear tests in the:

- (a) Antarctica (b) areas near the north pole  
(c) South Pacific (d) Sahara desert

51. A given object has mass  $m$  and weight  $w$  on the earth surface. The same object has mass  $m'$  and weight  $w'$  on the moon. These are related as:

- (a)  $m = m', w = w'$  (b)  $m = m', w \neq w'$   
(c)  $m \neq m', w = w'$  (d)  $m \neq m', w \neq w'$

52. Lead ball falls through water more slowly than through air because:

- (a) the value of 'g' is less in water  
(b) density of air is less than that of water  
(c) of the viscous force in water  
(d) of the surface tension of water

53. A cracker explodes into two fragments of exactly equal masses. The two fragments will move:

- (a) with equal speed but at right angles to each other  
(b) in the same direction with different speed  
(c) in opposite directions but with equal speed  
(d) in opposite directions with different speed

54. A body is thrown vertically upwards with a velocity of  $50 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . On the return journey, its velocity at the starting point will be:

- (a)  $50 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (b)  $9.8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (c)  $100 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (d)  $25 \text{ ms}^{-1}$

55. The centre of gravity of a uniform meter stick is nearest to the line marked:

- (a) 100 cm (b) 50 cm (c) 40 cm (d) 1 cm

56. If the length of the pendulum is increased by four times, then its period of oscillation will become:

- (a) half (b) twice  
(c) four times (d) eight times

57. Which one of the following devices does NOT come under the category of levers?

- (a) Crowbar (b) A pair of Scissors  
(c) Broom (d) Staircase

58. A body floats with one-third of its volume outside water and three fourths of its volume outside in another liquid. The specific gravity of the liquid is:

- (a)  $\frac{8}{3}$  (b)  $\frac{4}{9}$  (c)  $\frac{1}{4}$  (d)  $\frac{1}{6}$

59. A Fahrenheit thermometer indicates a temperature of  $14^\circ\text{F}$ . Its corresponding reading on the Celsius scale will be:

- (a)  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  (b)  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  (c)  $+10^\circ\text{C}$  (d)  $+20^\circ\text{C}$

60. Sound travels in gases in the form of:

- (a) longitudinal waves only

(b) transverse waves only

(c) longitudinal as well as transverse waves

(d) stationary waves

61. Two sound waves passing through air have their wavelengths in the ratio 4 : 5. Their frequencies are in the ratio:

- (a) 4 : 5 (b) 3 : 4 (c) 5 : 4 (d) 1 : 1

62. The ratio of the frequencies of the fundamental notes between one organ pipe open at both ends and another organ pipe of same length closed at one end is:

- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 2 (d) 1

63. The refractive index of glass is 1.5. What is the speed of light in glass? (Speed of light in vacuum  $= 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$ )

- (a)  $1.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$  (b)  $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$   
(c)  $1.8 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$  (d)  $2.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

64. Which one of the following colours has longest wavelength?

- (a) Green (b) Yellow (c) Blue (d) Red

65. Which one of the following can be used to focus sun light?

- (a) Plane mirror (b) Concave lens  
(c) Concave mirror (d) Convex mirror

66. The magnetic lines of force inside a bar magnet flow:

- (a) from north pole to south pole  
(b) from south pole to north pole  
(c) both from north and south poles to the middle point of the bar magnet  
(d) from north or south poles, depending on the place and direction in which the bar magnet is placed

67. The force of attraction between two opposite poles of two small magnets will be reduced to one-fourth of its value when the distance between the poles is:

- (a) reduced by four times  
(b) increased by four times  
(c) reduced to half of its original value  
(d) increased to double the original value

68. A hollow sphere of copper is charged with positive charge. The electric field inside the sphere will be:

- (a) zero  
(b) equal to the electric field on the surface of the sphere  
(c) less than the electric field on the surface of the sphere  
(d) greater than the electric field on the surface of the sphere

69. Mho is a unit of:

- (a) potential difference (b) current  
(c) specific resistance (d) conductance

70. Which of the following are correct regarding the resistance of a wire?

1. It varies with its length.  
2. It varies with its cross-section.  
3. It varies with its density.

Choose the answer from the codes given below:

Codes:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2  
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3

71. The electric power dissipated by a resistance  $R$  when a current  $i$  is passing through, it is equal to:

- (a)  $iR$  (b)  $i^2R$  (c)  $iR^2$  (d)  $i^2R^2$

72. The utility of a safety fuse in an electric circuit depends on its low:

- (a) melting point (b) strength  
(c) resistivity (d) conductivity

73. One unit of electricity costs 50 paise. In 10 hours, one heater of 2000 watts rating would consume electricity costing:

- (a) Rs 10.00 (b) Rs 5.00  
(c) Rs 2.50 (d) Rs 1.00

74. The number of neutrons in the nucleus of  $^{31}\text{P}$  is:

- (a) 15 (b) 16 (c) 31 (d) 46

75. Which one of the following lists of four planets in our solar system is arranged according to their distance from the Sun?

- (a) Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars  
(b) Earth, Venus, Mars, Mercury  
(c) Mars, Venus, Earth, Mercury  
(d) Mercury, Earth, Mars, Venus

76. Which one of the following is the most favourable condition for the reaction of nitrogen with hydrogen to form ammonia?

- (a) High pressure, high temperature and high concentration of reactants  
(b) High pressure, low temperature and high concentration of reactants  
(c) High pressure, low temperature and low concentration of reactants  
(d) Low temperature, low pressure and high concentration of reactants

77. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Chemical compounds)	List II (Uses)
A. Silver Bromide	1. Etching of glass
B. Hydrogen peroxide	2. Photography
C. Hydrofluoric acid	3. Purification of air
D. Ozone	4. Bleaching agent

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	2	3	1	4
(b)	2	4	1	3
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	4	2	1	3

78. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Type of element)	List II (Electronic configuration)
A. Alkali metals	1. Complete octet in outermost orbit, $ns^2 np^6$
B. Halogens	2. Incomplete d-orbital, $(n-1)d^{1-9} ns^2$
C. Inert gases	3. Single electron in outermost orbit $ns^1$
D. Transition elements	4. Seven electrons in outermost orbit $ns^2 np^5$

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	4	2	1	3
(b)	3	4	1	2
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	2	4	3	1

79. A mole of a compound is composed of  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  atoms of hydrogen, 35.5 g of chlorine and 48 g of oxygen. The compound is:

- (a)  $\text{HClO}$  (b)  $\text{HClO}_2$   
(c)  $\text{HClO}_3$  (d)  $\text{HClO}_4$

80. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):

Assertion (A): Oxides of nitrogen illustrate the law of multiple proportions.

Reason (R): Nitrogen forms five oxides. The weight of oxygen combining with a fixed weight of nitrogen is in the simple ratio 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false  
(d) A is false but R is true

81. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):

Assertion (A): Water is highly polar in character.

Reason (R): There is extensive association in water molecule due to hydrogen bonding.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false  
(d) A is false but R is true

82. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Reaction)	List II (Name)
A. $\text{Zn} + \text{CuSO}_4 \rightarrow \text{ZnSO}_4 + \text{Cu}$	1. Freezing
B. $\text{CaCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2$	2. Neutralization
C. $\text{HCl} + \text{NaOH} \rightarrow \text{NaCl} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$	3. Decomposition
D. $\text{H}_2\text{O (water)} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O (ice)}$	4. Oxidation-Reduction
	5. Dehydration

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	5	3	2	1
(b)	4	3	2	1
(c)	5	1	4	3
(d)	4	3	1	5

83. Tritium is composed of:

- (a) one proton, one electron and two neutrons  
(b) one proton, two electrons and one neutron  
(c) two protons and one electron  
(d) one proton, one electron and one neutron

84. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

List I (The atom for which the oxidation state is to be found)	List II (Oxidation state)
A. Oxygen in $\text{BaO}_2$	1. -1
B. Sulfur in $\text{S}_4\text{O}_6^{2-}$	2. 0
C. Carbon in $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$	3. +7
D. Manganese in $\text{MnO}_4^-$	4. -2
	5. +2.5

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 1	4	2	3
(b) 1	5	2	3
(c) 4	1	2	3
(d) 4	5	3	1

85. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):

Assertion (A): Phenolphthalein indicator is not suitable for the titration of weak base and strong acid.

Reason (R): Phenolphthalein works in the pH range 8.3 to 10 only whereas the titration of weak base and strong acid requires a pH range of 6 to 3.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are correct but R is not a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false
- (d) A is false but R is true

86. Which of the following statements about diamond are correct?

- 1. It has high refractive index and density.
- 2. Each carbon atom is covalently bonded to 4 carbon atoms.
- 3. It has three-dimensional structure.
- 4. It has a high melting point.

Choose the answer from the codes given below:

Codes:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 4
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

87. Nitrolime is a mixture of:

- (a) calcium and nitrogen
- (b) nitrogen and aluminium
- (c) calcium cyanamide and coke
- (d) calcium dicarbide and nitrogen

88. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists.

List I

List II

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Abrasive              | 1. NPK                |
| B. Explosive             | 2. Silicon carbide    |
| C. Artificial fertilizer | 3. Azo compounds      |
| D. Paints                | 4. Azides             |
|                          | 5. Ammonium phosphate |

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 2	3	5	4
(b) 2	4	1	3
(c) 3	4	5	2
(d) 2	1	5	4

89. The electronic configuration of Chromium (Z = 24) is

- (a)  $1s^2, 2s^2 2p^6, 3s^2 3p^6 3d^5, 4s^2$
- (b)  $1s^2, 2s^2 2p^6, 3s^2 3p^6 3d^5, 4s^1$
- (c)  $1s^2, 2s^2 2p^6, 3s^2 3p^6, 4s^2 4p^4$
- (d)  $1s^2, 2s^2 2p^6, 3s^2 3p^6 3d^6$

90. 2240 ml of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas at N.T.P. will weigh :

- (a) 34.0 g
- (b) 17.0 g
- (c) 8.5 g
- (d) 1.7 g

91. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer

by using the codes given below the lists:

List I

List II

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| A. Cuttle fish | 1. Insect  |
| B. Silver fish | 2. Pisces  |
| C. Black molly | 3. Mammal  |
| D. Blue whale  | 4. Mollusc |

Codes:

A	B	C	D
(a) 3	1	4	2
(b) 4	2	1	3
(c) 4	1	2	3
(d) 3	2	4	1

92. Mycorrhiza is the term applied to indicate the association of:

- (a) bacteria with the roots
- (b) bacteria with the stem
- (c) fungus with the roots
- (d) fungus with the stem

93. *Rafflesia arnoldi* having the biggest flower is a:

- (a) root parasite
- (b) stem parasite
- (c) saprophyte
- (d) symbiont

94. Deficiency of vitamin A causes:

- (a) nyctalopia
- (b) cataract
- (c) presbyopia
- (d) hypermetropia

95. Which one of the following types of feathers present on the wing and tail of birds is helpful during flight?

- (a) Contour feathers
- (b) Down feathers
- (c) Quill feathers
- (d) Filoplumes

## ANSWERS

- |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b)  | 2. (c)  | 3. (d)  | 4. (b)  |
| 5. (a)  | 6. (d)  | 7. (c)  | 8. (c)  |
| 9. (c)  | 10. (a) | 11. (d) | 12. (a) |
| 13. (d) | 14. (d) | 15. (d) | 16. (c) |
| 17. (c) | 18. (d) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (a) | 23. (a) | 24. (a) |
| 25. (a) | 26. (c) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) |
| 29. (c) | 30. (b) | 31. (c) | 32. (b) |
| 33. (b) | 34. (d) | 35. (b) | 36. (c) |
| 37. (d) | 38. (c) | 39. (c) | 40. (d) |
| 41. (d) | 42. (a) | 43. (a) | 44. (b) |
| 45. (c) | 46. (c) | 47. (c) | 48. (c) |
| 49. (a) | 50. (c) | 51. (b) | 52. (b) |
| 53. (c) | 54. (a) | 55. (b) | 56. (b) |
| 57. (d) | 58. (a) | 59. (b) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (c) | 62. (c) | 63. (d) | 64. (d) |
| 65. (c) | 66. (b) | 67. (d) | 68. (a) |
| 69. (d) | 70. (b) | 71. (b) | 72. (a) |
| 73. (a) | 74. (b) | 75. (a) | 76. (b) |
| 77. (b) | 78. (b) | 79. (c) | 80. (a) |
| 81. (b) | 82. (b) | 83. (a) | 84. (b) |
| 85. (a) | 86. (d) | 87. (d) | 88. (b) |
| 89. (b) | 90. (d) | 91. (c) | 92. (c) |
| 93. (a) | 94. (a) | 95. (c) |         |

# Quantitative Aptitude

Combined Defence Services Exam., October 29, 1995

1. A clock is started at noon. By 10 minutes past 5, the hour hand has turned through:

- (a)  $145^\circ$  (b)  $150^\circ$  (c)  $155^\circ$  (d)  $160^\circ$

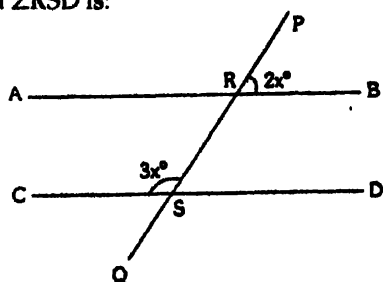
2. The equation  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$  represents:

- (a) a pair of straight lines through the origin  
(b) two perpendicular straight lines  
(c) circle  
(d) two parallel straight lines

3. The two points  $P(3, 2)$ ,  $Q(3, -2)$  represent:

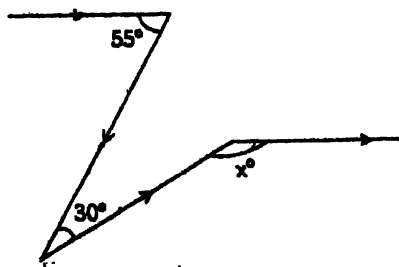
- (a)  $90^\circ$  rotation about  $(0, 0)$   
(b)  $180^\circ$  rotation about  $(0, 0)$   
(c) reflection about the x-axis  
(d) reflection about the y-axis

4. If AB and CD are parallel straight lines in the given figure, then  $\angle RSD$  is:



- (a)  $72^\circ$  (b)  $60^\circ$  (c)  $36^\circ$  (d)  $108^\circ$

5. A particle moves in a straight line. After two turns of  $55^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  as shown in the figure, it moves parallel to initial direction. The angle  $x$  is:



- (a)  $155^\circ$  (b)  $120^\circ$  (c)  $90^\circ$  (d)  $165^\circ$

6. In a  $\triangle ABC$ , angle C is  $68^\circ$ , the perpendicular bisector of AB at R meets BC at P. If  $\angle PAC = 42^\circ$ , then  $\angle ABC$  is equal to:

- (a)  $45^\circ$  (b)  $42^\circ$  (c)  $35^\circ$  (d)  $34^\circ$

7. The number of sides of a regular polygon each of whose angles measures  $156^\circ$  is:

- (a) 8 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 15

8. In a right angled triangle, one acute angle is double the other. If the length of the smallest side is  $a$ , the length of the hypotenuse is:

- (a)  $\sqrt{5}a$  (b)  $2a$  (c)  $2\sqrt{2}a$  (d)  $(\sqrt{2} + 1)a$

9. ABC is a triangle right angled at A. If a perpendicular AD is drawn on the hypotenuse BC, then  $BC \cdot AD$  is equal to:

- (a)  $BD \cdot AC$  (b)  $AB \cdot CD$  (c)  $AB \cdot AC$  (d)  $AC \cdot BC$

10. The perimeters of two similar triangles are 30 cm and 20 cm respectively. If one side of the first triangle is 15 cm, then the corresponding side of the second triangle is:

- (a) 6 cm (b) 10 cm (c) 12 cm (d) 18 cm

11. O is the point of intersection of the diagonals AC and BD of a rhombus ABCD. P, Q, R are points on OC, OB and OA respectively such that  $OP = 1$  unit,  $OQ = 2$  units and  $OR = 4$  units. The angle PQR is:

- (a) a right angle (b) less than  $90^\circ$   
(c) greater than  $90^\circ$  (d) between  $0^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$

12. The area of a rhombus is  $120 \text{ cm}^2$ . If one of its diagonals is of length 10 cm, then the length of one of its sides is:

- (a) 12 cm (b) 13 cm (c) 24 cm (d)  $2\sqrt{30}$  cm

13. A square and an equilateral triangle are inscribed in a circle. If  $a$  and  $b$  denote the lengths of their sides, then:

- (a)  $a^2 = \frac{b^2}{2}$  (b)  $\frac{a^2}{2} = b^2$   
(c)  $3b^2 = 2a^2$  (d)  $3a^2 = 2b^2$

14. If C is a circle passing through three non-collinear points D, E, F such that  $DE = EF = DF = 3$  cms, then the radius of the circle C is:

- (a)  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$  cm (b)  $\sqrt{3}$  cm (c)  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$  cm (d)  $\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$  cm

15. ABCD is a rhombus and O is the point of intersection of the diagonals AC and BD. The locus of a point which is equidistant from AB and AD is:

- (a) AC (b) BD (c) CB (d) CD

16. One diagonal of a parallelogram is 70 cm and the perpendicular distance of this diagonal from either of the outlying vertices is 27 cm. The area of parallelogram (in  $\text{cm}^2$ ) is:

- (a) 1800 (b) 1836 (c) 1890 (d) 1990

17. The perimeter of a triangle is 100 m and its sides are in the ratio 1 : 2 : 2. The area of the triangle (in  $\text{m}^2$ ) is:

- (a)  $100\sqrt{3}$  (b)  $100\sqrt{15}$  (c)  $100\sqrt{5}$  (d)  $100\sqrt{7}$

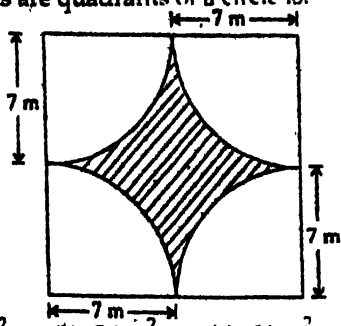
18. In a circle of radius 7 cm, an arc subtends an angle of  $108^\circ$  at the centre. The area of the sector is ( $\pi = \frac{22}{7}$ ):

- (a)  $43.2 \text{ cm}^2$  (b)  $44.2 \text{ cm}^2$   
(c)  $45.2 \text{ cm}^2$  (d)  $46.2 \text{ cm}^2$

19. The sum of areas of two circles A and B is equal to the area of a third circle C whose diameter is 30 cm. If the diameter of circle A is 18 cm, then the radius of circle B is:

- (a) 18 cm (b) 15 cm (c) 12 cm (d) 10 cm

20. The area of the shaded portion in the given figure where the arcs are quadrants of a circle is:



- (a)  $42 \text{ m}^2$  (b)  $56 \text{ m}^2$  (c)  $64 \text{ m}^2$  (d)  $144 \text{ m}^2$

21. The area of a trapezium is  $275 \text{ cm}^2$ . If its parallel sides are in the ratio 2 : 3 and the perpendicular distance between them is 5 cms, then the smaller of the parallel sides is:

- (a) 36 cm (b) 40 cm (c) 44 cm (d) 48 cm

22. The dimensions of a room are  $10 \text{ m} \times 7 \text{ m} \times 5 \text{ m}$ . There are 2 doors and 3 windows in the room. The dimensions of the doors are  $1 \text{ m} \times 3 \text{ m}$ . One window is of size  $2 \text{ m} \times 1.5 \text{ m}$  and other two windows are of size  $1 \text{ m} \times 1.5 \text{ m}$ . The cost of painting the walls at Rs 3 per  $\text{m}^2$  is:

- (a) Rs 474.00 (b) Rs 578.50  
(c) Rs 684.00 (d) Rs 894.00

23. The volume of a cube is 343 cubic cm. The surface area of the cube is:

- (a) 284 sq cm (b) 288 sq cm  
(c) 290 sq cm (d) 294 sq cm

24. Three cubes of metal whose edges are 3 cm, 4 cm and 5 cm respectively are melted and a new cube is formed. The diagonal of the new cube is:

- (a)  $4\sqrt{3} \text{ cm}$  (b) 6 cm (c)  $6\sqrt{3} \text{ cm}$  (d) 8 cm

25. A solid sphere of radius  $r$  is sliced by the planes passing through its centre and perpendicular to each other. The total surface area of each of the pieces so formed is:

- (a)  $\frac{2}{3}\pi r^2$  (b)  $\pi r^2$  (c)  $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^2$  (d)  $2\pi r^2$

26. A right pyramid on a regular hexagonal base is of height 60 m. Each side of the base is 10 m. The volume of the pyramid is

- (a)  $4500 \text{ m}^3$  (b)  $5000 \text{ m}^3$  (c)  $5196 \text{ m}^3$  (d)  $6196 \text{ m}^3$

27. The slant height of right circular cone is 10 cm and its height is 8 cm. It is cut by a plane parallel to its base passing through the mid point of the height. The ratio of the volume of the cone to that of the frustum of the cone cut is:

- (a) 2 : 1 (b) 3 : 2 (c) 4 : 3 (d) 8 : 7

28. The surface areas of the two spheres are in the ratio 1 : 2. The ratio of their volumes is:

- (a) 1 : 2 (b)  $1 : \sqrt{2}$  (c)  $1 : 2\sqrt{2}$  (d)  $1 : 3\sqrt{2}$

29. A cone and a hemisphere have equal bases and equal volumes. The ratio of their heights is:

- (a) 2 : 1 (b)  $\sqrt{3} : 1$  (c)  $\sqrt{2} : 1$  (d) 3 : 1

30. Three solid spheres of radius 1 cm, 6 cm and 8 cm respectively are melted together and cast into a single sphere. The radius  $r$  of this sphere will be:

- (a)  $r < 9 \text{ cm}$  (b)  $r = 9 \text{ cm}$   
(c)  $9 \text{ cm} < r < 10 \text{ cm}$  (d)  $r > 10 \text{ cm}$

31. The class width of the intervals (1—10), (11—20), (21—30), (31—40) and (41—50) in a frequency distribution is:

- (a) 9 (b) 9.5 (c) 10 (d) 10.5

32. If a perpendicular is drawn on x-axis from the point where the two ogives intersect, the foot of perpendicular gives:

- (a) maximum frequency (b) half of total frequency  
(c) mean of distribution (d) median of distribution

33. If frequencies of all the classes in a frequency distribution are equal, then the frequency polygon will be:

- (a) straight line (b) parabola  
(c) bell shaped curve (d) inverted bell-shaped curve

34. The mean of  $n$  values 2, 4, 6, 8, ...,  $2n$  is:

- (a)  $2n(n+1)$  (b)  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$   
(c)  $n$  (d)  $n+1$

35. A cart runs at the rate of 4 kilometers per hour during the first 10 kilometers and at 9 kilometers per hour during the second 10 kilometers. The average speed of the cart (in kmph) is:

- (a) 5.0 (b) 5.5 (c) 6.0 (d) 6.5

36. The number  $\pi$  is:

- (a) equal to  $\frac{22}{7}$  (b) a recurring decimal  
(c) an irrational number (d) none of the above

37. The largest number among:

$$2^2, 2^{22}, 222, (22)^2 \text{ is:}$$

- (a)  $2^{22}$  (b)  $2^2$  (c) 222 (d)  $(22)^2$

38. Both addition and multiplication of numbers are operations which are:

- (a) commutative but not associative  
(b) commutative and associative  
(c) associative but not commutative  
(d) neither commutative nor associative

39. If 98 is the  $n$ th term of the sequence 3, 8, 13, 18, ..., then:

- (a)  $n = 10$  (b)  $n = 15$  (c)  $n = 20$  (d)  $n = 35$

40. The value of  $\sqrt{216}$  is equal to:

- (a)  $6\sqrt{2}$  (b)  $6\sqrt{3}$  (c)  $6\sqrt{5}$  (d)  $6\sqrt{6}$

41. The positive square root of:

$$(x^2 + 2x - 1) + \frac{1}{(x^2 + 2x + 1)} \text{ is:}$$

- (a)  $(x+1) + \frac{1}{(x+1)}$  (b)  $(x+1) - \frac{1}{(x+1)}$   
(c)  $(x+2) - \frac{1}{(x+1)}$  (d)  $(x+2) + \frac{1}{(x+1)}$

42. The simplified value of the decimal fraction

$$\frac{1.59 \times 1.59 - .41 \times .41}{1.59 - .41} \text{ is:}$$

- (a) 1 (b) 1.4 (c) 2 (d) 2.6

43. The fraction  $101\frac{27}{100000}$  in decimal form is:

- (a) 101.000027 (b) 101.00027 (c) .10127  
(d) .010127

44. A train 540 m long is running with a speed of 72 km/hour. The time taken by the train to pass a tunnel 160 m long will be:

- (a) 18 sec. (b) 27 sec. (c) 35 sec. (d) 42 sec.

45. A man undertakes to do a certain work in 150 days. He employs 200 workers. He discovers that only a quarter of the work is done in 50 days. In order to complete the work on schedule, he must additionally employ:

- (a) 50 workers (b) 100 workers  
(c) 150 workers (d) 200 workers

46. The price of an article is cut by 10%. In order to restore it to its former value, the new price must be increased by:

- (a)  $10\frac{1}{9}\%$  (b) 11% (c)  $11\frac{1}{9}\%$  (d)  $12\frac{1}{9}\%$

47. The cost of a house-plot is Rs. 15,000. After 1 year the cost of the plot increases by 10%. At the end of the second year the cost of the plot increases by 15% over its cost after the first year. The cost of the plot at the end of the second year will be:

- (a) Rs 16,500 (b) Rs 17,475  
(c) Rs 18,750 (d) Rs 18,975

48. A businessman sold  $\frac{2}{3}$  of his stock at a gain of 20% and the rest at a gain of 14%. The percentage of gain to the businessman is:

- (a) 12% (b) 17% (c) 18% (d) 20%

49. Ramu wanted to borrow Rs 1000 from a moneylender for a period of one year. However the moneylender deducted Rs 200 as interest charges and gave Rs 800 to Ramu. Ramu returned Rs 1000 at the end of the year. The rate of interest charged by the moneylender is:

- (a) 20 (b) 22.5 (c) 25 (d) 27.5

50. Rs 16000 is to be distributed between B and A such that B gets Rs 4000 less than A. The ratio of the amount received by A to that received by B is:

- (a) 3 : 5 (b) 5 : 3 (c) 6 : 1 (d) 1 : 3

51. The number to be added to each of the numbers 8, 11, 12, 16 to form the terms of a proportion, is:

- (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5

52. The electricity bill of the certain establishment is partly fixed and partly varies as the number of units of electricity consumed. When in a certain month 200 units are consumed, the bill is Rs 107. In another month 300 units are consumed and the bill is Rs 154. In yet another month 500 units are consumed. The bill for that month will be:

- (a) Rs 240 (b) Rs 248 (c) Rs 245 (d) Rs 246

53. The smallest prime integer is:

- (a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3

54. A number is divisible by 8 if:

- (a) the number formed by last two digits is divisible by 8

(b) the sum of the last three digits is divisible by 8

(c) the number formed by the last three digits is divisible by 8

(d) the sum of all the digits of n is divisible by 8

55. If the square of an odd natural number is divided by 8, then the remainder will be:

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4

56. The H.C.F. of 204, 1190 and 1445 is:

- (a) 17 (b) 18 (c) 19 (d) 21

57. The greatest number of four digits which when divided by 3, 5, 7, 9 leaves remainders 1, 3, 5, 7 respectively, is:

- (a) 9983 (b) 9867 (c) 9763 (d) 9664

58. Let a and b be two positive real numbers such that  $ab = 1$ . If none of these numbers is a power of 10, then the sum of the characteristics of their logarithms to base 10 must be:

- (a) 0 (b) 1 (c) -1 (d) -2

59. If a set of positive real numbers is arranged in such a way that it forms a geometric progression, then the logarithms of the numbers to base 10 are in:

- (a) A.P. (b) G.P. (c) H.P.  
(d) neither A.P., nor G.P., nor H.P.

60. The logarithm of 0.0625 to the base 2 is:

- (a) 0.25 (b) .5 (c) -2 (d) -4

61. Which one of the following is a polynomial?

- (a)  $x^3 + \sqrt{3}x^2 + 4\sqrt{x}$   
(b)  $x^6 + \sqrt{2}x^2 + x^{-1}$   
(c)  $x^5 + x^4 + x^{-4} + x^{-5}$   
(d)  $x^3 + \sqrt{5}x^2 + x + \sqrt{3}$

62. If  $x^y = y^x$ , then  $\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^{x/y}$  equals:

- (a)  $x^{x/y}$  (b)  $x^{(x/y)-1}$  (c)  $x^{y/x}$  (d)  $x^{(y/x)-1}$

63. If  $x + \frac{1}{x} = 3$ , then the value of  $x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3}$  is:

- (a) 18 (b) 24 (c) 27 (d) 36

64. If  $x = \frac{u+v}{1-uv}$ ;  $y = \frac{u-v}{1+uv}$ , then  $\frac{x+y}{1-xy}$  is equal to:

- (a)  $\frac{u}{1+u^2}$  (b)  $\frac{2u}{1+u}$  (c)  $\frac{2u}{1+u^2}$  (d)  $\frac{2u}{1-u^2}$

65. One of the factors of  $x^6 + 5x^3 + 8$  is:

- (a)  $x^2 - x - 2$  (b)  $x^2 + x - 2$   
(c)  $x^2 + x + 2$  (d)  $x^2 - x + 2$

66. If  $x^5 - 9x^2 + 12x - 14$  is divided by  $(x - 3)$ , then the remainder is:

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 56 (d) 184

67. If the polynomial  $f(x)$  is such that  $f(-2) = 0$ , then which one of the following is always a factor of  $f(x)$ ?

- (a) 2x (b) 2 - x (c) x + 2 (d) x - 2

68. If  $x^5 + 1$  is divided by  $x^2 + x - 2$ , then the remainder is:

- (a) 11x - 9 (b) 9x - 11 (c) 9x + 11 (d) 9x - 9

69. If  $x^2 + ax + b$  leaves the same remainder 5 when divided by  $x - 1$  or  $x + 1$ , then the values of 'a' and 'b' are respectively:

(a) 0 and 4 (b) 3 and 0 (c) 0 and 3 (d) 4 and 0  
70. The product of the zeros of the polynomial  $x^3 - 6x^2 + 11x - 6$  is:

- (a) 11 (b) -6 (c) 1 (d) 6

71. The H.C.F. of  $x^5 + 2x^4 + x^3$  and  $x^7 - x^5$  is:

- (a)  $x$  (b)  $x(x+1)$  (c)  $x^3$  (d)  $x^3(x+1)$

72. The H.C.F. of two polynomials is  $a - b$ . For the same polynomials L.C.M. is  $(a^2 - b^2)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$ . If one of the polynomials is  $a^3 - b^3$  then the other will be:

- (a)  $a^2 - b^2$  (b)  $a^2 + ab + b^2$   
(c)  $a^2 + b^2$  (d)  $a + b$

73. The sum of the ages of a father and son is 45 years. Five years ago the product of their ages was 34. The ages of son and father are respectively:

- (a) 6 and 39 (b) 9 and 36  
(c) 11 and 34 (d) 7 and 38

74. Of two numbers, 4 times the smaller one is less than 3 times the larger one by 5. If the sum of the numbers is larger than 6 times their difference by 6, then the larger number is:

- (a) 43 (b) 53 (c) 59 (d) 63

75. The graph of  $y = 5$  cuts the graph of  $x + y = 9$  at the point:

- (a) (0, 5) (b) (5, 0) (c) (4, 5) (d) (5, 4)

76. If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the roots of equation  $x^3 - bx + c = 0$ , then the value of  $\alpha^3 + \beta^3$  is:

- (a)  $b^3$  (b)  $c^3$   
(c)  $b^3 - c^3$  (d)  $b^3 - 3bc$

77. If the roots of  $x^2 - px + 8p - 15 = 0$  are equal, then the value of  $p$  is:

- (a) 3 or 40 (b) 2 or 30  
(c) 3 or 50 (d) 2 or 40

78. The sum of the two positive integers multiplied by the bigger number is 204, and their difference multiplied by the smaller number is 35. The numbers are:

- (a) 12, 5 (b) 24, 10 (c) 13, 4 (d) 14, 3

79. The solution of the equation  $3(3x - 4) - 2(4x - 5) = 8$  is:

- (a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 10

80. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a)  $9^{60} < 27^{35}$  (b)  $9^{60} \leq 27^{35}$   
(c)  $9^{60} > 27^{35}$  (d)  $9^{60} \geq 27^{35}$

81. The value of  $[5^3 \times 8^2 \times (x^{-9})^{1/3}]^{-1/3}$  is:

- (a)  $20x$  (b)  $\frac{x}{20}$  (c)  $\frac{20}{x}$  (d)  $40x$

82. If  $(a^n)^n = (a^2)^2$ , then:

- (a)  $n^2 = 2^n$  (b)  $n^n = 2^{n-1}$  (c)  $n^{2n} = 2^{n+1}$  (d)  $n^3 = 2^{n+1}$

83. If A and B are two sets such that A contains  $m$  elements, B contains  $n$  elements and A and B have  $p$  elements in common, then the number of elements in  $A \cup B$  is:

- (a)  $m + n$  (b)  $m + n + p$   
(c)  $m + n - p$  (d)  $m + p - n$

84. Consider the following sets:

$$X = \{1, 2, 3\}, Y = \{2, 3, 4\}, Z = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

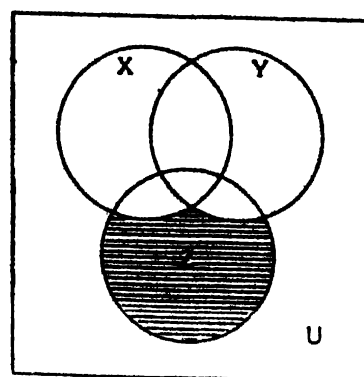
Match List I with List II with respect to equality and mark the correct answer in the codes given below the lists:

	List I	List II
A.	$X \rightarrow Y$	1. $\{5, 6\}$
B.	$Y \rightarrow X$	2. $\{1\}$
C.	$Y \rightarrow Z$	3. $\{4\}$
D.	$Z \rightarrow Y$	4. $\{2\}$

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	2	3	1	4
(b)	A	B	C	D
(c)	2	3	4	1
(d)	A	B	C	D
(e)	3	2	4	1
(f)	A	B	C	D
(g)	4	3	1	2

85. Which one of the following correctly represents the shaded region of the given Venn diagram (U is the universal set)?



- (a)  $(X \cup Z) \cap Y$  (b)  $(Y \cap Z) \cup X$   
(c)  $Z - X \cap Y$  (d)  $[U - (X \cup Y)] \cap Z$

86. If  $\frac{1}{\cos \theta} = a + \frac{1}{4a}$ , then the value of  $(\tan \theta + \frac{1}{\cos \theta})$  is:

- (a)  $a$  (b)  $2a$  (c)  $3a$  (d)  $4a$

87. The value of  $(\frac{\sin 27^\circ}{\cos 63^\circ})^2 - (\frac{\cos 63^\circ}{\sin 27^\circ})^2$  is:

- (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 0 (d) -1

88. If  $x = a \cos^3 \theta$ ,  $y = b \sin^3 \theta$ , then the value of:

$$(\frac{x}{a})^{2/3} + (\frac{y}{b})^{2/3}$$
 is:

- (a) 1 (b) -2 (c) 2 (d) -1

89. The length of the chord of a unit circle subtending an angle of  $90^\circ$  at the centre is:

- (a)  $\sqrt{2}$  (b)  $\sqrt{3}$  (c)  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$  (d)  $\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}$

90. The value of

$$\sin^2 30^\circ \cos^2 45^\circ + 4 \tan^2 30^\circ + \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 90^\circ - 2 \cos^2 90^\circ$$
 is:

- (a)  $\frac{45}{24}$  (b)  $\frac{46}{24}$  (c)  $\frac{47}{24}$  (d)  $\frac{49}{24}$

91. If  $x \cos \frac{\pi}{3} - \sin \frac{\pi}{6} = x \tan \frac{\pi}{6} \cot \frac{\pi}{3}$ , then the value of  $x$  is:

- (a) -1 (b) 0 (c) 1 (d) 3



92. Which one of the following is *not* correct?

- (a)  $(1 - \cos x)(1 + \cos x) = \sin^2 x$   
 (b)  $(1 - \cos 2x)/(1 + \cos 2x) = \tan^2 x$   
 (c)  $(1 + \cos x) + 2 \sin^2(\frac{x}{2}) = 2$

(d)  $(\sin x + \cos x)(\sin x - \cos x) = \cos 2x$

93. The length of a side of a regular hexagon inscribed in a circle of radius 80 cm is:

- (a) 40 cm (b) 60 cm (c) 75 cm (d) 80 cm

94. If  $\theta$  lies in the fourth quadrant and  $\cos \theta = \frac{5}{13}$ , then the value of  $\sin \theta$  is:

- (a)  $-\frac{13}{12}$  (b)  $-\frac{12}{13}$  (c)  $\frac{12}{13}$  (d)  $\frac{13}{12}$

95. If  $\sin x + \sin^2 x = 1$ , then the value of  $\cos^2 x + \cos^4 x$  is:

- (a) 0 (b) -1 (c) 1 (d) 2

96. If  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 90^\circ$ ,  $0 \leq \beta \leq 90^\circ$  and  $2 \sin \alpha + 3 \cos \beta = 5$ , then the value of  $(3 \sin \alpha + 2 \cos \beta)$  is:

- (a) 1 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 9

97. The lowest value of  $(\sin^2 x - \sin x)$  is:

- (a) -1 (b)  $-\frac{1}{2}$  (c)  $-\frac{1}{4}$  (d) 0

98. The angle of elevation of the sun, when the shadow of a stick is double its height, is:

- (a)  $\tan^{-1}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$  (b)  $\tan^{-1}(\frac{1}{2})$   
 (c)  $30^\circ$  (d)  $60^\circ$

99. If a kite is flown by a string 350 ft long and its vertical height above the ground is 175 ft, then its angle of elevation is:

- (a)  $30^\circ$  (b)  $35^\circ$  (c)  $40^\circ$  (d)  $45^\circ$

100. The horizontal distance between two trees of different heights is 60 m. The angle of depression of the top of the first tree as seen from the top of the second tree is  $45^\circ$ . If the height of the second tree is 80 m, then the height of the first tree is:

- (a) 20 m (b) 24 m (c) 40 m (d) 60 m

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) Angle between two consecutive marks =  $\frac{360^\circ}{12} = 30^\circ$

$$\therefore \text{Reqd angle} = 5 \times 30^\circ + \frac{10}{60} \times 30^\circ = 155^\circ$$

2. (d)  $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0 \Rightarrow (x-2)(x-3) = 0$

$\therefore$  Eqs. of two lines are

$$x-2=0 \Rightarrow x=2 \text{ and}$$

$$x-3=0 \Rightarrow x=3$$

which are parallel to each other

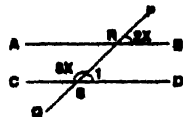
3. (c)

4. (a)  $\angle 1 = 2x$  (corresp.  $\angle$ s),

$$\angle 1 + 3x = 180^\circ \text{ (Linear pair)}$$

$$2x + 3x = 180$$

$$\therefore x = 36, 2x = 72^\circ$$



$$\angle RSD = 72^\circ$$

5. (a) Thro' C draw  $CD \parallel AB$ ,

$AB \parallel EF$

$\therefore EF \parallel CD$ ,

$$\angle 1 + 30^\circ = 55$$

$$\therefore \angle 1 = 25^\circ$$

$$\angle 1 + x = 180^\circ \text{ (sum of consec. int. } \angle\text{s)}$$

$$25 + x = 180^\circ \therefore x = 155^\circ$$

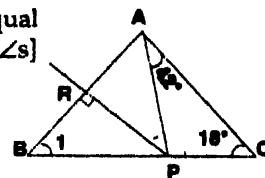
6. (c)  $\angle APB = 42^\circ + 68 = 110^\circ$

[Ext.  $\angle$  of a  $\Delta$  is equal to sum of opp int.  $\angle$ s]

$$\angle RPB = \frac{110^\circ}{2} = 55^\circ$$

$$\therefore \angle 1 = 90^\circ - 55^\circ = 35$$

$$\text{or } \angle ABC = 35^\circ$$



7. (d)  $(n-2)180^\circ = 156^\circ \therefore n = 15$

8. (b)  $2x + x = 90^\circ \Rightarrow x = 30^\circ$

$$\frac{AC}{AB} = \operatorname{cosec} 30^\circ$$

$$\frac{AC}{a} = 2 \Rightarrow AC = 2a$$

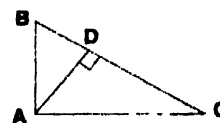
[AB will be smallest side as the side opp. to the smallest  $\angle$  is smallest]

9. (c) or  $\Delta ABC = \frac{1}{2} BC \times AD$

$$= \frac{1}{2} AC \times AB$$

$$\Rightarrow BC \cdot AD = AC \cdot AB$$

$$10. (b) \frac{\text{Perimeter of Ist } \Delta}{\text{Perimeter of IInd } \Delta} = \frac{\text{Side of Ist } \Delta}{\text{Side of IInd } \Delta} \Rightarrow \frac{30}{20} = \frac{15}{x} \Rightarrow x = 10$$



11. (a)  $OP = 1$ ,

$$OQ = 2,$$

$$OR = 4$$

$$\therefore PR = 1 + 4 = 5$$

$$QP^2 = OQ^2 + OP^2$$

$$= 2^2 + 1^2 = 5$$

$$QR^2 = OR^2 + OQ^2$$

$$= 4^2 + 2^2 = 20$$

$$PR^2 = 5^2 = 25$$

$$\therefore PR^2 = QP^2 + QR^2$$

$$\therefore \Delta PQR \text{ is a rt } \Delta \text{ in which } \angle PQR = 90^\circ$$

12. (b)  $A = \frac{1}{2} d_1 d_2 \therefore d_2 = \frac{2A_1}{d_1}$

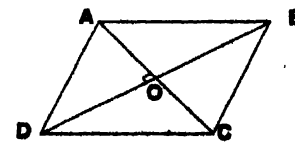
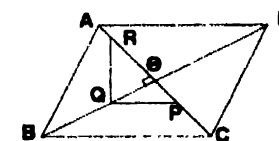
$$= \frac{2 \times 120}{10} = 24 \text{ cm}$$

$$AO = \frac{1}{2} AC = \frac{10}{2} = 5$$

$$OD = \frac{24}{2} = 12$$

$$AD = \sqrt{AO^2 + OD^2} = \sqrt{5^2 + 12^2} = 13 \text{ cm}$$

13. (d) In an equilateral  $\Delta$ , median and  $\perp$  bisectors are same, lines  $AB = b$



$$AD \perp BC \therefore BD = \frac{BC}{2} = \frac{b}{2}$$

$$AD = \sqrt{b^2 - \frac{b^2}{4}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}b$$

$$\therefore \text{Radius of a circle} = r = \frac{2}{3} \times AD$$

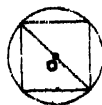
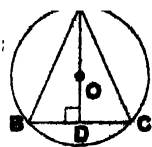
$$= \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}b = \frac{b}{\sqrt{3}}$$

( $\because$  Centroid divides median AD in the ratio 2 : 1)

Diagonal of the square = diameter of circle =  $\sqrt{2}a$

$$\therefore r = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}a = \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\therefore \frac{b}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ or } \frac{b^2}{3} = \frac{a^2}{2} \Rightarrow 2b^2 = 3a^2$$



$$14. (b) \text{ Radius of a circle } C = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \text{ side} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}} = \sqrt{3}$$

[see ques. no. 13]

15. (a) In  $\Delta s$  ABO and ADO,

$$AB = AD$$

$$\angle AOB = \angle AOD \text{ (each} = 90^\circ$$

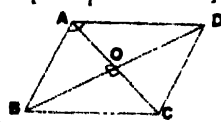
$AO = AO$  (com.)  $\therefore$  Diagonals of a rhombus are  $\perp$  to each other)

$\therefore \Delta ABO \cong \Delta ADO$  (by RHS cong. rule)

$\therefore \angle BAO = \angle DAO$  (CPCT)

$\therefore AC$  is the bisector of  $\angle BAD$

$\therefore$  The reqd locus is AC  $\because$  the pt which lies on the bisector of  $\angle BAD$  is equidistant from AB and AD



$$16. (c) \text{ Area of } \parallel \text{ gm} = \frac{1}{2} \times 70 (27 + 27) = 1890$$

$$17. (b) x + 2x + 2x = 100 \therefore x = 20 \therefore \text{ sides are } 20, 40, 40$$

$$\text{Area of } \Delta = \sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}$$

$$S = \frac{20 + 40 + 40}{2} = 50$$

$$\text{Area of } \Delta = \sqrt{50(50-20)(50-40)(50-40)} = 100\sqrt{15}$$

$$18. (d) \text{ Area of a sector} = \frac{108}{360} \times \frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times 7 = 46.2 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$19. (c) \pi \times 9^2 + \pi r^2 = \pi \times 15^2 \therefore r = 12 \text{ cm}$$

$$20. (a) \text{ Reqd area} = 14^2 - 4 \times \frac{1}{4} \pi r^2 = 196 - \frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times 7 = 42 \text{ m}^2$$

$$21. (c) \frac{1}{2} (2x + 3x) \times 5 = 275 \Rightarrow x = 22$$

$$\therefore \text{ Smaller side} = 2 \times 22 = 44$$

22. (a) Area to be painted

$$= 2(10 + 7) \times 5 - [2(1 \times 3) + 2 \times 1.5 + 2(1 \times 1.5)] = 158 \text{ m}^2$$

$$\therefore \text{ Cost of painting} = 158 \times 3 = \text{Rs } 474$$

$$23. (d) l^3 = 343 \Rightarrow l = 7 \text{ cm}$$

$$\therefore \text{ S.A. of a cube} = 6l^2 = 6 \times 7^2 = 294 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$24. (c) \text{ Vol of new cube} = l^3 = 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3 = 216 \therefore l = 6 \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{ Diagonal of a new cube} = \sqrt{3}l = \sqrt{3} \times 6 = 6\sqrt{3}$$

$$25. (d) \text{ Reqd. area} = \frac{1}{4} \times 4\pi r^2 + \frac{1}{2} \pi r^2 + \frac{1}{2} \pi r^2 = 2\pi r^2$$

$$26. (c) \text{ Area of a regular hexagon} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} a^2 = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \times 10^2$$

$$\text{Vol. of a pyramid} = \frac{1}{3} \times \text{area of base} \times \text{height}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \times 10 \times 10 \times 60$$

$$= 3000\sqrt{3} = 5196 \text{ m}^3$$

27. (d)  $V_1 = \text{Vol of bigger cone}$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \pi \times 6^2 \times 8 = 96\pi$$

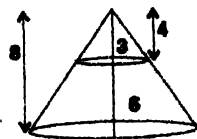
$V_2 = \text{Vol of smaller cone}$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \pi \times 3^2 \times 4 = 12\pi$$

$V_3 = \text{Vol of frustum}$

$$= 96\pi - 12\pi = 84\pi$$

$$\text{Reqd. ratio} = 96\pi : 84\pi = 8 : 7$$



$$28. (c) \frac{4\pi r_1^2}{4\pi r_2^2} = \frac{1}{2} \therefore \frac{r_1}{r_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V_1}{V_2} = \frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi r_1^3}{\frac{4}{3}\pi r_2^3} = \frac{r_1^3}{r_2^3} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^3$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} = 1 : 2\sqrt{2}$$

$$29. (b) \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h = \frac{2}{3} \pi r^3 \therefore \frac{h}{r} = \frac{2}{1} \text{ or } h : r = 2 : 1$$

$$30. (b) \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 = \frac{4}{3} \pi (1^3 + 6^3 + 8^3) \Rightarrow r = 9 \text{ cm}$$

$$31. (c) \text{ Class mark of class } 1-10 = (10 + \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{11}{2} = 5.5$$

$$\text{Class mark of class } 11-20 = \frac{11 + 20}{2} = \frac{31}{2} = 15.5$$

$$\therefore \text{ Class size} = 15.5 - 5.5 = 10.0$$

32. (d) 33. (a)

$$34. (d) \text{ Sum of values} = \frac{n}{2} (2 + 2n) = n(n+1)$$

[ $\because$  This is an A.P. series having n terms

$$\therefore S_n = \frac{n}{2} (\text{1st term} + \text{last term})]$$

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{n(n+1)}{n} = n+1$$

$$35. (b) \text{ Total time} = \frac{10}{4} + \frac{10}{9} = \frac{130}{36}$$

$$\text{Total distance} = 10 + 10 = 20 \text{ km}$$

$$\text{Average speed} = \frac{20}{\frac{130}{36}} = \frac{72}{13} = 5.5 \text{ km/hr}$$

36. (a) 37. (a) 38. (b)

$$39. (c) a = 3 \quad d = 5 \quad t_n = a + (n-1)d$$

$$\therefore 98 = 3 + (n-1)5 \therefore n = 20$$

40. (d)

$$41. (b) x^2 + 2x - 1 + \frac{1}{x^2 + 2x + 1} = \frac{(x^2 + 2x)^2 - 1^2 + 1}{x^2 + 2x + 1}$$

$$= \frac{(x^2 + 2x)^2}{(x+1)^2}$$

$$\therefore \text{ Positive square-root} = \frac{x^2 + 2x}{(x+1)} = \frac{x^2 + 2x + 1 - 1}{x+1}$$

$$= \frac{(x+1)^2 - 1}{x+1} = x+1 - \frac{1}{x+1}$$

42. (c)  $\frac{a^2 - b^2}{a - b} = a + b \therefore \text{Reqd value} = 1.59 + .41 = 2$

43. (b)

44. (c) Speed =  $72 \times \frac{5}{18} = 20 \text{ m/sec}$

$$\text{Time} = \frac{540 + 160}{20} = 35 \text{ sec}$$

45. (b) work days men

$$\frac{1}{4} \quad 50 \quad 200$$

$$\frac{3}{4} \quad 100 \quad x$$

more work more men

$$\frac{1}{4} : \frac{3}{4}$$

more days less men

$$100 : 50$$

$$\therefore x = 200 \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{50}{100} \times \frac{4}{1} = 300$$

$$\text{Extra men reqd.} = 300 - 200 = 100$$

46. (c) Let original value = Rs 100  $\therefore$  Reduced value = Rs 90

$$\text{Reqd. increase\%} = \frac{10}{90} \times 100 = \frac{100}{9} = 11\frac{1}{9}$$

47. (d) Reqd. cost =  $15000 (1 + \frac{10}{100}) (1 + \frac{15}{100}) = \text{Rs } 18975$

48. (c) Let the total C.P. of stock be Rs x

$$\therefore \text{S.P. of } \frac{2}{3} \text{ of stock} = \frac{2x}{3} \times \frac{(100+20)}{100} = \text{Rs } \frac{4x}{5}$$

$$\text{S.P. of rest of stock} = \frac{x}{3} \times \frac{114}{100} = \text{Rs } \frac{19x}{50}$$

$$\text{Total S.P.} = \frac{4x}{5} + \frac{19x}{50} = \frac{59x}{50} \therefore \text{Gain} = \frac{59x}{50} - x = \text{Rs } \frac{9x}{50}$$

$$\text{Gain\%} = \frac{\frac{9x}{50}}{x} \times 100 = 18\%$$

49. (c)  $I = 1000 - 800 = \text{Rs } 200 \quad R = \frac{200 \times 100}{800 \times 1} = 25\%$

50. (b) Let A's share be Rs x  $\therefore$  B's share =  $x - 4000$

$$x + x - 4000 = 16000 \therefore x = \text{Rs } 10000$$

$$\therefore \text{B's share} = 10000 - 4000 = 6000$$

$$\text{Reqd. ratio} = 10000 : 6000 = 5 : 3$$

51. (c) Let the reqd. no. be x  $\therefore \frac{8+x}{11+x} = \frac{12+x}{16+x} \Rightarrow x = 4$

52. (b) Let the no. of units be x and bill be y

$$\therefore y = mx + k \text{ (fixed)}$$

$$\therefore 107 = 200x + k \dots (i)$$

$$154 = 300x + k \dots (ii)$$

Solving (i) and (ii)  $m = .47$  and  $k = 13$

$$\therefore \text{For 500 units } y = 500 \times .47 + 13 = \text{Rs } 248$$

53. (c) 54. (c) 55. (a) 56. (a)

57. (c) 3 5 7 9

$$-\frac{1}{2} \quad -\frac{3}{2} \quad -\frac{5}{2} \quad -\frac{7}{2} \quad \text{LCM of } 3, 5, 7, 9 = 315$$

When the largest no. of 4 digits i.e., 9999 is divided by 315, we get R = 234

$$\therefore \text{Reqd. no.} = 9999 - 234 + 2 = 9763$$

58. (c)  $ab = 1 \therefore \log a + \log b = 0 \Rightarrow \log b = -\log a$

Let ch. of log a be x and mantissa y

$$\therefore \log b = -x - y = -x - 1 + (1-y)$$

$$= x+1 + \text{mantissa (decimal part)}$$

$$\therefore \text{Sum of ch.} = x - x - 1 = -1$$

59. (a) Let the nos. in G.P. be a, b, c  $\therefore b^2 = ac$

$$\log b^2 = \log ac \Rightarrow 2 \log b$$

$$= \log a + \log c \Rightarrow \log b - \log a$$

$$= \log c - \log b$$

which shows that log a, log b, log c are in A.P.

60. (d)  $\log_2 0.0625 = \log_2 \frac{625}{10000} = \log_2 \frac{1}{16} = \log_2 1 - \log_2 16$   
 $= 0 - \log_2 2^4 = -4 \log_2 2 = -4 \times 1 = -4$   
 $[\log_a 1 = 0 \quad a \neq 0 \quad \log_c c = 1]$

61. (d)

62. (b)  $x^y = y^x = k \therefore x = k^{1/y}, y = k^{1/x}$

$$\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^{x/y} = \left(\frac{k^{1/y}}{k^{1/x}}\right)^{x/y} = (k^{1/y-1/x})^{x/y} = (k^{x-y/xy})^{x/y}$$

$$= (k^{1/y})^{x-y/y} = (x)^{x/y-1}$$

63. (a)  $x + \frac{1}{x} = 3$ , cubing both sides, we get,

$$x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} + 3 \times x \times \frac{1}{x} \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right) = 27 \text{ or } x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} + 3 \times 3 = 27$$

$$\therefore x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} = 27 - 9 = 18$$

64. (d)  $\frac{x+y}{1-xy} = \frac{\frac{u+v}{1-uv} + \frac{u-v}{1+uv}}{1 - \left(\frac{u+v}{1-uv}\right)\left(\frac{u-v}{1+uv}\right)}$   

$$= \frac{\frac{u+v+u^2v+uv^2+u-v-u^2v+uv^2}{1-u^2v^2}}{1 - \frac{u^2-v^2}{1-u^2v^2}}$$
  

$$= \frac{2u+2uv^2}{1-u^2+v^2-u^2v^2} = \frac{2u(1+v^2)}{(1-u^2)+v^2(1-u^2)}$$
  

$$= \frac{2u(1+v^2)}{(1-u^2)(1+v^2)} = \frac{2u}{1-u^2}$$

65. (d) By dividing the poly. by  $x^2 - x + 2$ , we get R = 0

$\therefore x^2 - x + 2$  is a factor of given poly.

66. (d) Let  $p(x) = x^5 - 9x^2 + 12x - 14$

If  $p(x)$  is divided by  $x - 3$ ,  $R = p(3)$

$$= 3^5 - 9(3)^2 + 12 \times 3 - 14 = 243 - 81 + 36 - 14 = 184$$

67. (c) 68. (a)

69. (a) Let  $p(x) = x^2 + ax + b$  when  $p(x)$  is divided by  $x - 1$ ,

$$R = p(1) = 1^2 + a \times 1 + b = 5 \text{ or } a + b = 4 \dots (i)$$

When  $p(x)$  is divided by  $x + 1$ ,

$$R = p(-1) = (-1)^2 + a(-1) + b = 5$$

$$\text{or } -a + b = 4 \dots (ii)$$

Solving (i) and (ii) we get  $a = 0, b = 4$

70. (d)  $x^3 - 6x^2 + 11x - 6 = x^3 - 6x^2 + 9x + 2x - 6$

$$= x(x^2 - 6x + 9) + 2(x-3) = x(x-3)^2 + 2(x-3)$$

$$= (x-3)[x(x-3)+2] = (x-3)(x^2-3x+2)$$

$$= (x-3)(x-1)(x-2)$$

∴ Zeros of the poly. are 3, 1, 2

∴ Product =  $3 \times 1 \times 2 = 6$

71. (d)  $x^5 + 2x^4 + x^3 = x^3(x^2 + 2x + 1) = x^3(x+1)^2$   
 $x^7 - x^5 = x^5(x^2 - 1) = x^5(x-1)(x+1)$   
 ∴ HCF =  $x^3(x+1)$

72. (a) Other poly. =  $\frac{(a-b)(a^2-b^2)(a^2+ab+b^2)}{a^3-b^3} = a^2-b^2$

73. (a) Let the ages of son and father be x and y resp.

$$x+y = 45 \dots (i)$$

$$(x-5)(y-5) = 34 \dots (ii)$$

$$xy - 5(x+y) + 25 = 34 \Rightarrow xy - 5 \times 45 + 25 = 34$$

$$x(45-x) = 234 \Rightarrow x = 39, 6 \neq 39$$

$$\therefore x = 6 \text{ years} \quad y = 45 - 6 = 39 \text{ years}$$

74. (c) Let the smaller no. be x and larger no. be y

$$\text{A.T.S. } 4x = 3y - 5 \dots (i)$$

$$x+y = 6(y-x) + 6 \dots (ii)$$

Solving (i) and (ii) we get y = 59

75. (c) To find the pt. put y = 5 in x + y = 9

$$x+5 = 9 \Rightarrow x = 4 \therefore \text{The reqd pt. is } (4, 5)$$

76. (d)  $\alpha + \beta = b, \alpha\beta = c$

$$\alpha^3 + \beta^3 = (\alpha + \beta)^3 - 3\alpha\beta(\alpha + \beta) = b^3 - 3c(b) = b^3 - 3bc$$

77. (b) As the roots are equal ∴ D = 0

$$D = b^2 - 4ac = (-p)^2 - 4 \times 1 \times (8p-15) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow p^2 - 32p + 60 = 0 \Rightarrow (p-2)(p-30) = 0 \Rightarrow p=2 \text{ or } 30$$

78. (a)

79. (d) On solving the equ. we get x = 10

80. (c)  $9^{60} = (3^2)^{60} = 3^{120} \quad (27)^{35} = (3^3)^{35} = 3^{105}$

$$\therefore 9^{60} > (27)^{35}$$

81. (b)  $[5^3 \times 8^2 \times (x^{-9})^{1/3}]^{-1/3} = 5^{3 \times -1/3} \times (64)^{-1/3} \times x^{-3 \times -1/3}$   
 $= 5^{-1} \times (4^3)^{-1/3} \times x^1 = \frac{x}{5 \times 4} = \frac{x}{20}$

82. (d)  $(a^n)^n = (a^2)^2 \Rightarrow a^{n^2 \times n} = a^{2^2 \times 2} \Rightarrow a^{n^3}$   
 $= a^{2^{n+1}} \Rightarrow n^3 = 2^{n+1}$

83. (c)

84. (b) x-y is a set of all the elements which belong to x but do not belong to y

$$\therefore x-y = \{1\}, y-x = \{4\}, y-z = \{2\}, z-y = \{5, 6\}$$

85. (d)

86. (b)  $\frac{1}{\cos \theta} = a + \frac{1}{4a}$

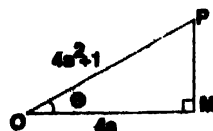
$$= \frac{4a^2 + 1}{4a} \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{4a}{4a^2 + 1}$$

$$= \frac{4a}{4a^2 + 1}$$

$$\text{M.P.} = \sqrt{(4a^2 + 1)^2 - (4a)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{4a^4 - 1} = 4a^2 - 1$$

$$\tan \theta + \frac{1}{\cos \theta} = \frac{4a^2 - 1}{4a} + \frac{4a^2 + 1}{4a} = \frac{8a^2}{4a} = 2a$$



87. (c)  $\left[ \frac{\sin 27}{\cos(90-27)} \right]^2 - \left[ \frac{\cos 63}{\sin(90-63)} \right]^2$

$$= \left( \frac{\sin 27}{\sin 27} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{\cos 63}{\cos 63} \right)^2$$

$$= 1^2 - 1^2 = 0 \quad [\cos(90-\theta) = \sin \theta, \sin(90-\theta) = \cos \theta]$$

88. (a) By putting the values of x and y and solving we get  $\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta$  which is equal to 1

89. (a)  $l = 2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} = 2 \sin \frac{90^\circ}{2} = 2 \sin 45^\circ = 2 \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{2}$

90. (c)  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2 + 4 \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \times 1^2 - 2 \times 0^2 = \frac{47}{24}$

91. (d)  $x \times \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = x \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow \frac{x}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{x}{3} \Rightarrow x = 3$

92. (d)  $(1-\cos x)(1+\cos x) = 1 - \cos^2 x = \sin^2 x$  True

$$\frac{1 - \cos 2x}{1 + \cos 2x} = \frac{2 \sin^2 x}{2 \cos^2 x} = \tan^2 x$$

$$1 + \cos x + 2 \sin^2 x/2 = 2 \cos^2 x/2 + 2 \sin^2 x/2$$

$$= 2 (\cos^2 x/2 + \sin^2 x/2) = 2 \times 1 = 2$$

$$(\sin x + \cos x)(\sin x - \cos x) = \sin^2 x - \cos^2 x$$

$$= -(\cos^2 x - \sin^2 x) = -\cos 2x \neq \cos 2x$$

93. (d) There will be 6 equilateral  $\Delta$ s

in a regular hexagon

$$\therefore \text{side} = \text{radius} = 80$$

94. (b)  $MP = \sqrt{13^2 - 5^2} = 12$

$$\therefore \sin \theta = -\frac{12}{13}$$

[  $\therefore \theta$  lies in 4th

quad. where  $\sin \theta$  is -ve ]

95. (c)  $\sin x + \sin^2 x = 1 \Rightarrow \sin x = 1 - \sin^2 x = \cos^2 x$

$$\text{squaring } \sin^2 x = \cos^4 x \Rightarrow 1 - \cos^2 x = \cos^4 x$$

$$= \cos^4 x \Rightarrow \cos^4 x + \cos^2 x = 1$$

96. (b)  $\therefore 2 \sin \alpha + \cos \beta = 5$

∴ sin  $\alpha$  and cos  $\beta$  get the max. value

∴ If sin  $\alpha < 1$  then cos  $\beta > 1$  ( $\therefore$  total value is 5, and if cos  $\beta < 1$  then sin  $\alpha > 1$  which is not possible)

$$\text{Max value of } \sin \alpha = 1, \cos \beta = 1$$

$$\therefore 3 \sin \alpha + 2 \cos \beta = 3 \times 1 + 2 \times 1 = 5$$

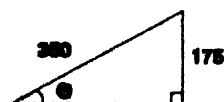
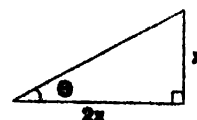
97. (d) Value will be lowest if value of sin x is max. which is equal to 1  $\therefore 1^2 - 1 = 0$

98. (b)  $\frac{x}{2x} = \tan \theta \Rightarrow \tan \theta = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \theta$

$$= \tan \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

99. (a)  $\sin \theta = \frac{175}{350} = \frac{1}{2} = \sin 30^\circ$

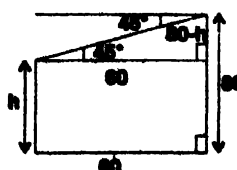
$$\therefore \theta = 30^\circ$$



100. (a)  $\frac{80-h}{60} = \tan 45 = 1$

$$80-h = 60$$

$$80-60=h \Rightarrow h = 20 \text{ m}$$



# TEST OF REASONING—1

**Qs. 1-5. Answer the following questions based on the following alphabets:**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1. Which letter will come exactly midway between the seventh letter from your left and tenth letter from your right?

- (a) M (b) L (c) N (d) P (e) None of these

2. What will come in place of the question-mark (?) in the following letter sequence?

CYL EWM HUN ?

- (a) LSO (b) LTP (c) MSP  
(d) MTO (e) None of these

3. The next set of letters in the following letter sequence will be:

BY DW GT ?

- (a) LR (b) JQ (c) JS  
(d) KP (e) None of these

If the first half of the alphabets were written in reverse form followed by the remaining half in the reverse order:

4. The letter exactly in the middle between C and U would be:

- (a) J (b) A (c) Z (d) Y (e) None of these

5. Which one would be 7th letter from W towards your left?

- (a) P (b) N (c) D (d) B (e) None of these

**Qs. 6-8. Study the sequence of numbers given below and answer the questions that follow:**

568697646386768576476876347857368

6. How many 6's are there in the sequence of numbers given above that are preceded by an odd number and followed by an even one?

- (a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8 (e) None of these

7. If we divide the numbers in sets of three calling the first three numbers first set, the next three numbers second set and so on, which set would have the highest number?

- (a) 5th (b) 6th (c) 8th  
(d) 10th (e) None of these

8. What is the ratio between the frequency of 5 and 8?

- (a) 1 : 2 (b) 2 : 3 (c) 1 : 3  
(d) 3 : 4 (e) None of these

**Q. 9 to 11 are based on the information given below:**

Four ladies A, B, C and D and four gentlemen E, F, G, H are sitting in a circle round a table facing each other.

No two ladies or two gentlemen are sitting side by side.

C who is sitting between G and E is facing D.

F is between D and A and is facing G.

H is to the right of B.

9. Who is sitting to the left of A?

- (a) E (b) F (c) G (d) H (e) None of these

10. E is facing ...

- (a) F (b) B (c) G (d) H (e) None of these

11. Who are immediate neighbours of B?

- (a) G and H (b) E and F (c) E and H

- (d) F and H (e) None of these

**Qs. 12 & 13. If 'x' means '-'; '+' means 'x'; '+' means '+' and '-' means '+', then**

12.  $3 + 9 \times 6 + 8 - 2 = ?$

- (a) 12 (b) 30 (c) 25  
(d) 5 (e) None of these

13.  $6 + 6 + 6 - 6 \times 6 = ?$

- (a) 0 (b) 1 (c) 6 (d) 36 (e) None of these

14. If 'CALCUTTA' is coded as 'DZMBVSUZ', then, in the same code, 'INDORE' would be:

- (a) JOCNSD (b) JMENSJ (c) JMCNSD  
(d) JMCNSF (e) None of these

15. If, in a certain code, 'STATION' is written as 'OPJUBUT', then the code for 'RAILWAY' would be:

- (a) ZBXMJBS (b) TCKNYCZ (c) BTXZMSJ  
(d) XZVKHZQ (e) None of these

16. If nu bu ru means big red ball,

ku yu nu means green and red and

yu ru hu means small and big,

then the code for small ball would be:

- (a) ru hu (b) yu bu (c) bu hu  
(d) hu nu (e) None of these

17. Mr X started from point P and went 2 km west, then he turned left and went 1 km, then he turned right and covered 1 km, then he once again turned left and went 1 km and from there he turned left again and reached point Q. How far is Q from P as the crow flies?

- (a) 1 km (b) 2 km (c) 3 km  
(d) 4 km (e) None of these

**Qs. 18 and 19 are based on the word CIRCUM-FERENCE.**

18. How many pairs of letters in the word have as many letters between them as they have in the alphabets?

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) None of these

19. How many total number of letters are required to form the word? (If a letter is repeated, it would be counted as one only.)

- (a) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (d) 9 (e) None of these

20. If all the numbers between 8 and 47, which are divisible by 3 were arranged in ascending order, which number would be exactly in the middle?

- (a) 21 (b) 24 (c) 27  
(d) 30 (e) None of these

**Qs. 21 & 22. In a row of boys, A is fifth from your left and B is 9th from your right.**

21. If A and B interchange positions, A would be 18th from your left. What would be B's position from your right?

- (a) 13th (b) 19th (c) 20th  
(d) 22nd (e) None of these

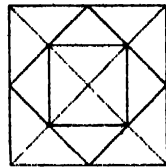
22. What is the total number of boys?

- (a) 26 (b) 24 (c) 29  
(d) 27 (e) None of these

23. If the 1st of a month is Tuesday, the date on last Friday of the month would be:

- (a) 25th (b) 27th (c) 29th  
(d) 30th (e) None of these

Qs. 24 and 25 are based on the figure given below:



24. How many squares are there in the figure?

- (a) 4 (b) 5  
(c) 6 (d) 7  
(e) None of these

25. How many triangles are there?

- (a) 16 (b) 20  
(c) 24 (d) 28  
(e) None of these

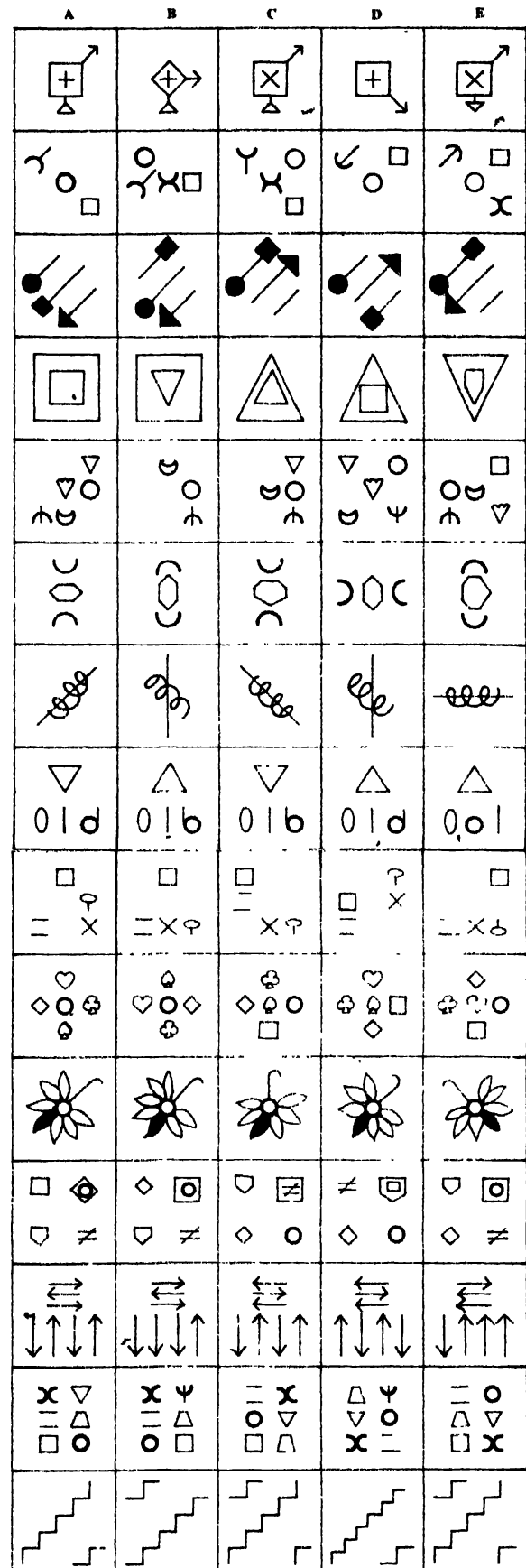
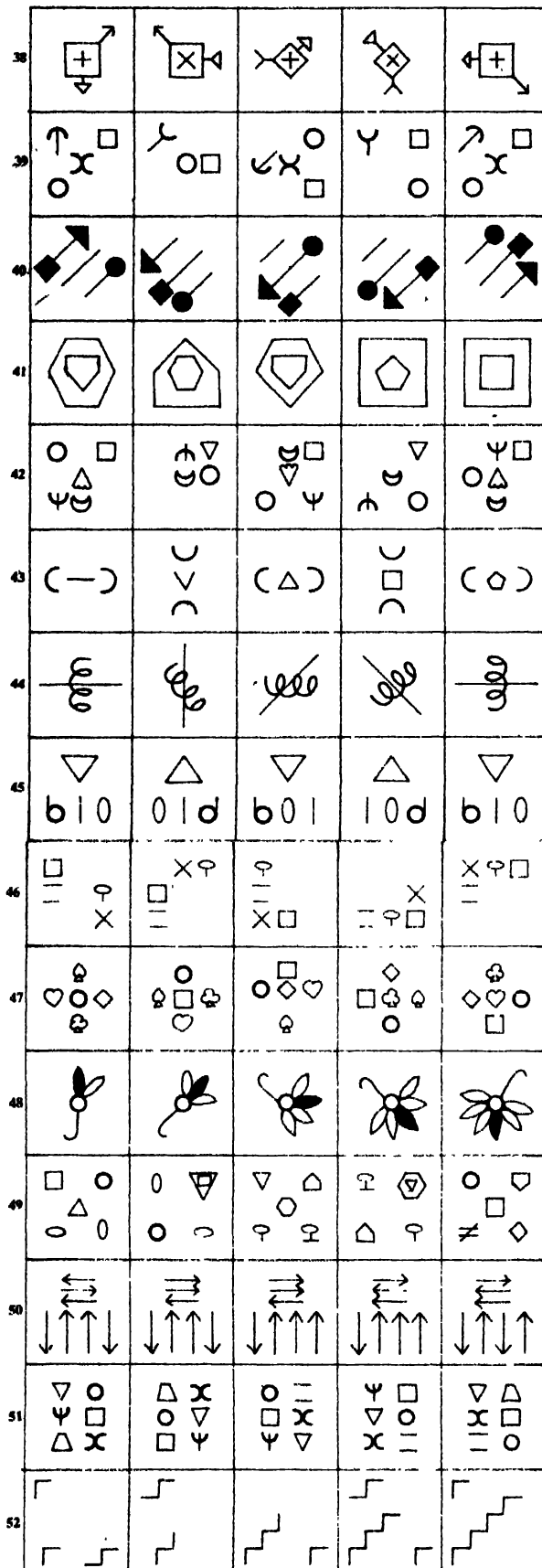
Qs. 26-55. Which figure from answer-figures, A, B, C, D and E would be the next one in the series of Problem Figures?

PROBLEM FIGURES

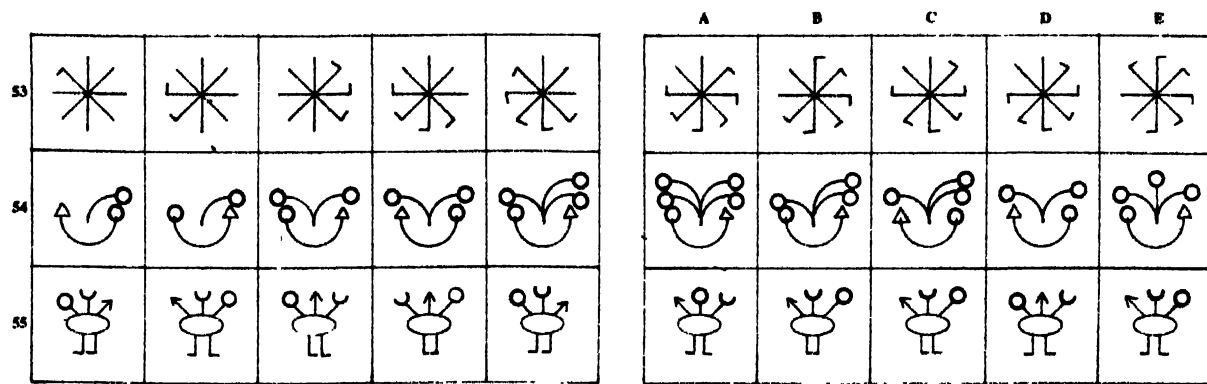
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ANSWER FIGURES

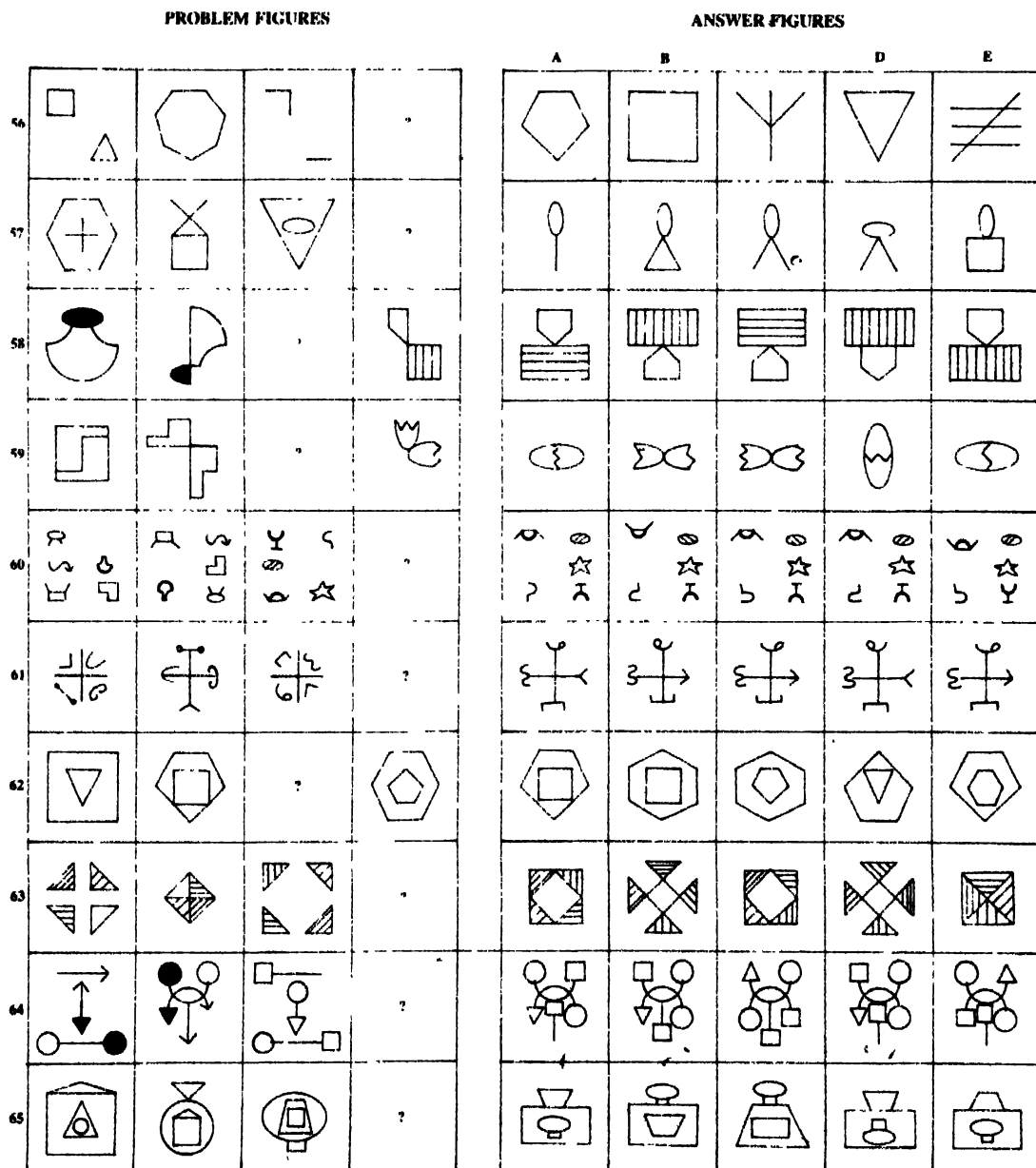
A	B	C	D	E



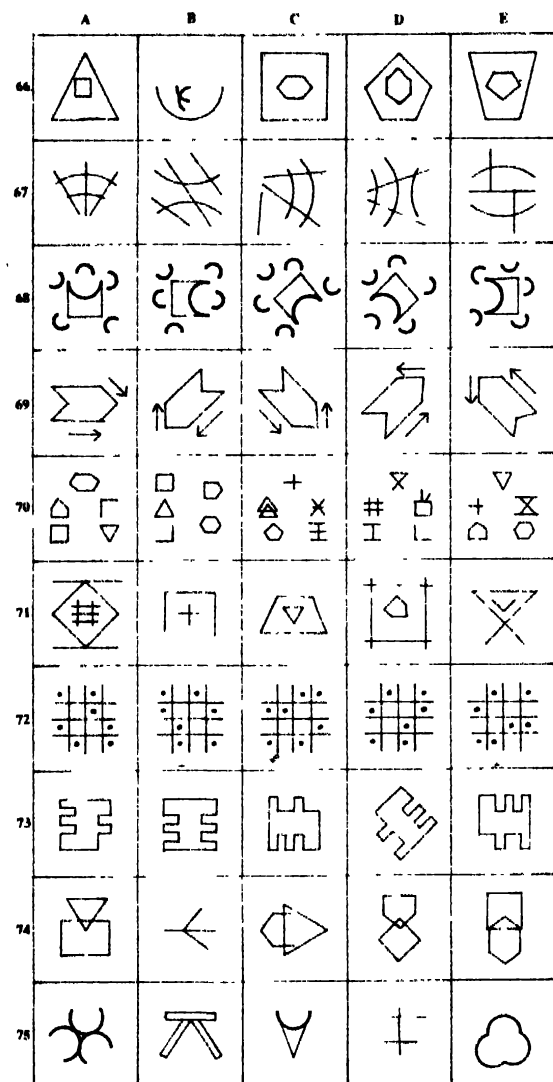




Qs. 56-65. The first pair of figures has a definite relationship. Your task is to find out the figure with similar relationship for the second pair which could be placed in place of question-mark.



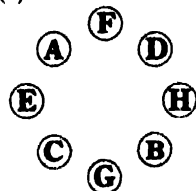
# Find the odd-man out:



## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) It is the mid-letter between G and Q.
2. (a) For the first letter, the gap increases by one, the second has a gap of one and the third one has none.
3. (d) The gap among first letter is increasing by one and the second letter has the same position in the alphabetical order from the end.
4. (d) MLKJIHGFEDCBAZYXWVUTSRQPON
5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (a)

9-11. The arrangement is:



9. (b) 10. (d) 11. (a)
12. (c) 13. (c)
14. (b) The first, third, fifth ... letters are the next ones and the remaining next ones in the alphabet.
15. (a) Reverse the order and use their next letters as codes.

16. (c) Match common words with common codes.

17. (b)



18. (d) IM; CF; FE; EC 19. (c) CIRUMFEN 20. (c)
21. (d) 22. (a) 23. (a) 24. (d) 25. (d)

For answering the next set of questions, keep the following points in view:

- (i) Study each figure individually as well as in relationship with the other figures.
- (ii) The movement of the figure is very important. The movement may be clockwise, anti-clockwise, from corner to corner, along certain points, up and down, right and left or in a zig-zag way. The different figures in the question may have different pace or direction of movement. (Examples: Qs. 29, 31, 33, 46 etc)
- (iii) The figures may appear or disappear according to a set pattern (Examples: Qs. 39, 42, 47, 51 etc)
- (iv) The figures may interchange places and may do so by changing direction as well. (Examples: Qs. 37, 40, 51 etc)
- (v) Something may be added to the figure or may be dropped from it in the series. (Examples: Qs. 28, 52, 54 etc)
- (vi) The figures may have a definite relationship in sets of two. (Examples: Qs. 36 and 41 etc)

26. B 27. D 28. B 29. A 30. C
31. E 32. E 33. B 34. C 35. E
36. A 37. D 38. C 39. A 40. C
41. D 42. C 43. A 44. B 45. D
46. B 47. D 48. D 49. B 50. A
51. E 52. A 53. A 54. B 55. E
56. D. The number of sides in the two figures join together and form an enclosed figure.
57. A. The outer figure has two sides less and the inner figure goes to the top, changing direction.
58. B. The figure tilts upside down and loses its half on left and right.
59. D. The two parts rotate and join at a definite angle.
60. D. The figures interchange places and some of them change their direction as well.
61. C. The figures rotate around according to a set pattern.
62. A. The inner and outer figure have one side extra.
63. C. The figures join together according to a set pattern.
64. D. Straight lines bend and the edges change
65. A. The figures interchange places as well as direction according to a set pattern.
66. C. In all the others, the two figures have a difference of one line only.
67. D. All the others have two arcs and three straight lines.
68. C. In all the others three small arcs face the main figure.
69. B. The position of arrows is wrong.
70. E. The figures have a clockwise arrangement according to the number of lines in them, i.e., 2, 3, 4, 5 and six line figures. This one is the only exception.
71. D. The inner figure ought to have one line less.
72. E. The arrangement of dots is wrong.
73. B. One side of the figure ought to be different. This one has a symmetry.
74. E. In all the others, one of the inter-woven figures has one side less. This one has two less.
75. C. All the three parts constituting the figure ought to be identical.

# TEST OF REASONING—II

## Find the odd-man out.

1. (a) rickshaw (b) taxi (c) tonga  
(d) cart (e) phaeton
2. (a) blouse (b) skirt (c) petticoat  
(d) pyjama (e) pantaloons
3. (a) mountain (b) valley (c) glacier  
(d) sea-coast (e) ridge
4. (a) misdeed (b) corruption (c) failure  
(d) offence (e) villainy
5. (a) nuptials (b) wedlock (c) matrimony  
(d) marriage (e) credentials
6. (a) Gandhi (b) Buddha (c) Mahavir  
(d) Christ (e) Nanak
7. (a) Java (b) Tasmania (c) Sri Lanka  
(d) Malaysia (e) Cuba
8. (a) river (b) earth (c) aeroplane  
(d) rock (e) breeze

**Qs. 9-16.** Each question given below has two items having a definite relationship between them. Your task is to find out the pair of words with identical relationship from (a), (b), (c) and (d)

9. crazy : insane.  
(a) unconscious : taint (b) sick : ill  
(c) cool : cold (d) speed : mileage
10. bomb : blast.  
(a) gun : hunting (b) liquid : flow  
(c) drug : addicts (d) throw : hit
11. royal : regal.  
(a) large : size (b) faithful : loyal  
(c) warm : heat (d) cat : tiger
12. book : page  
(a) train : driver (b) language : speech  
(c) car : horn (d) cloth : dress
13. Monday : Wednesday.  
(a) April : June (b) September : December  
(c) Spring : Summer (d) Saturday : Tuesday
14. polite : rude  
(a) laughter : fun (b) tears : eyes  
(c) angelic : devilish (d) health : death
15. axe : chop.  
(a) language : expression (b) shoes : feet  
(c) clothes : shame (d) knowledge : learning
16. chair : stool.  
(a) leather : shoe (b) purse : money  
(c) school : teaching (d) Saturn : Venus

**Qs. 17-22.** Each question below has three items having certain relationship among them. The same relationship is expressed by sets of circles, each circle representing one item irrespective of its size. Match the items with right set of circles.

17. horn : cow : rhinoceros



18. criminal : jail : jailor



19. brain : body : skull



20. crow : crocodile : crane



21. reptile : lizard : sparrow



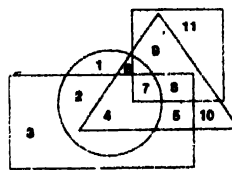
22. black : coal : horse



## Find the odd-man out:

23. (a) FEH (b) QPS (c) ZYB  
(d) WVZ (e) KJM
24. (a) KJON (b) EDHG (c) QPUT  
(d) ONSR (e) XWBA
25. (a) WTR (b) OLJ (c) ZWU  
(d) PMK (e) JFD
26. (a) CX (b) MN (c) JQ  
(d) FT (e) HS
27. (a) JNR (b) TWA (c) MQU  
(d) VZD (e) AEI

**Answer questions 28-31 on the basis of the diagram given below. In the given diagram:**



The triangle represents women.

The circle represents educated persons.

The rectangle represents employed persons.

The square represents married persons.

28. Which number represents the section of women who are educated, employed and unmarried?

- (a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7 (e) None of these

29. Which number represents uneducated married women who do not have any employment?

- (a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 10 (e) None of these

30. Number 2 represents:

- (a) married men who are educated but unemployed  
(b) educated employed single men  
(c) educated unemployed single men  
(d) educated employed single women  
(e) None of these

31. Number 5 represents:

- (a) uneducated employed single men  
(b) uneducated unemployed single women  
(c) uneducated employed single women  
(d) educated employed married women  
(e) None of these

**Qs. 32-36.** In a family of six, there are three men L, M and N and three women R, S and T. The six are architect, lawyer, chartered accountant (CA), professor, doctor and engineer by profession but not in the same order.

- (i) There are two married couples and two unmar-

ried persons.

- (ii) N is not R's husband.
- (iii) The doctor is married to the lawyer.
- (iv) R's grandfather is a professor.
- (v) M is not L's son, nor he is an architect or professor.
- (vi) The lawyer is T's daughter-in-law.
- (vii) N is T's son and the engineer's father.
- (viii) L is married to C.A.

Answer the following questions on the basis of the information given above:

32. Which of the following is a married couple?  
(a) L and S (b) N and R (c) M and R  
(d) L and T (e) None of these
33. Who are the two unmarried persons?  
(a) M and R (b) N and R (c) M and S  
(d) N and S (e) None of these
34. Who is the architect?  
(a) L (b) N (c) S (d) R (e) None of these
35. Which of the statements is superfluous?  
(a) (i) (b) (ii) (c) (vi) (d) (viii) (e) None
36. T is M's?  
(a) mother (b) sister (c) grand-mother  
(d) daughter (e) None of these

Qs. 37-39. A started from his home at 8.15 A.M. at a speed of 4 km per hr. He went 1 km west, turned left and went 2 kms, he again turned left and reached his destination after going for 1 km. His brother B started at 8 A.M. at a speed of 5 kms per hr. He went 2 kms east, turned right and walked for 1 km, he again turned right and covered 1 km and finally turned left and after going for 1 km reached his destination.

37. How far is A's destination from B's destination?  
(a) 1 km (b) 2 kms (c) 3 kms  
(d) 4 kms (e) None of these
38. How far is A from his home as the crow flies?  
(a) 1 km east (b) 2 kms west (c) 2 kms north  
(d) 2 kms south (e) None of these
39. How far were A and B from each other at 9 A.M.?  
(a) 1 km (b) 2 kms (c) 3 kms  
(d) 4 kms (e) None of these
40. Five friends A, B, C, D and E are sitting on a bench. C is between A and E.  
D is to the right of B but not at the extreme end.  
A is not near D.  
Who is on the extreme left?  
(a) A (b) B (c) C  
(d) D (e) Can't be established

## SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance from commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

Statements:

41. 1. All carts are drivers.  
2. All drivers are buses.

Conclusions:

- I. All buses are drivers.
- II. Some drivers are not carts.
- III. Some buses are carts.

IV. All carts are buses.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.
- (c) Only III and IV follow. (d) Either I or III follows.
- (e) Only IV follows.

Statements:

42. 1. All ears are fingers.  
2. Some fingers are green.

Conclusions:

- I. Some ears are green.
  - II. All fingers are ears.
  - III. Some green things are not fingers.
  - IV. No ear is green.
- (a) Only I and III follow. (b) Either II or III follows.
  - (c) Only IV follows. (d) Only III and IV follow.
  - (e) Either I or IV follows.

Statements:

43. 1. Some horses are ink-pots.  
2. Some ink-pots are jugs.

Conclusions:

- I. Some horses are not jugs
  - II. Some jugs are ink-pots.
  - III. Every jug is either ink-pot or horse.
  - IV. Some jugs are horses.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only IV follows.
  - (c) Only II and III follow. (d) Either II or IV follows.
  - (e) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. Some knights are leaders.  
2. All leaders are millionaires.

Conclusions:

- I. Some millionaires are knights.
  - II. Some leaders are knights.
  - III. Some millionaires are leaders
  - IV. Some knights are not leaders
- (a) Only I follows. (b) Either II or IV follows.
  - (c) Either III or IV follows. (d) Only I, III and IV follow.
  - (e) All the four follow.

Statements:

45. 1. Some nurses are orators.  
2. Some politicians are orators.

Conclusions:

- I. Some nurses are politicians.
  - II. All orators are either nurses or politicians.
  - III. No orator is nurse as well as politician.
  - IV. Some orators are politicians as well as nurses.
- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.
  - (c) Either III or IV follows. (d) Only III follows.
  - (e) None follows.

Statements:

46. 1. All quacks are reformers.  
2. All saints are reformers.

Conclusions:

- I. Some reformers are not saints.
  - II. Some reformers are not quacks.
  - III. Every reformer is either saint or quack.
  - IV. All reformers are saints as well as quacks.
- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II and III follow.
  - (c) Only IV follows. (d) None follows.
  - (e) Only III follows.

Statements:

47. 1. Some tables are vans.  
2. Some tables are windows.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some tables are vans as well as windows.
  - II. Every table is either van or window.
  - III. Some tables are neither van nor window.
  - IV. No table is van as well as window.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either II or IV follows.  
(c) None follows.  
(d) Any one of the four follows.  
(e) All the four follow.

**Statements:**

48. 1. All yaks are zebras.  
2. Some apes are zebras.

**Conclusions:**

- I. All zebras are yaks.
  - II. Some yaks are apes.
  - III. Every zebra is either yak or ape.
  - IV. No ape is yak.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either II or IV follows.  
(c) Either I or IV follows. (d) None follows.  
(e) All the four follow.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.

**Statement:**

49. Funds made for various welfare programmes are not reaching the persons concerned.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Government makes such announcements without being able to afford the money.
  - II. The persons concerned are not interested in money.
  - III. Most of the amount goes into the pockets of officials connected with such programmes.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either II or III is implicit.  
(e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

50. Due to severe shortage of power, the government has changed rules to encourage private sector generation with good incentives.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Government is unable to cope with the shortage of power.
  - II. Private sectors are interested in generating power.
  - III. The problem is not very old one.
- (a) Only I and II are implicit.  
(b) Only II and III are implicit.  
(c) Either I or III is implicit. (d) None is implicit.  
(e) All are implicit.

**Statement:**

51. Most of the States have announced a hike of 15% in the bus fares.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The State Roadways were running at a loss due to rise in the price of diesel and hence needed additional revenue.
  - II. The prices of diesel have gone up by 15%.
  - III. The buses are generally over-crowded.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.

- (e) Both I and II are implicit.

**Statement:**

52. The International Court has rejected the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons in war.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Some of the countries have more nuclear weapons than others.
  - II. The weapons can be used during peace time.
  - III. Prior to this decision, the use of nuclear weapons was very common.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Either I or III is implicit.

**Statement:**

53. Italian police are preparing to deport 126 illegal Indian immigrants who landed on the beaches in southern Italy.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The immigrants reached Italy by the sea-route.
  - II. Landing in a foreign country without proper documents is a crime.
  - III. These Indians had been expelled from India.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Both I and II are implicit. (d) Only III is implicit.  
(e) All are implicit.

**Statement:**

54. Some of the trains on the Delhi-Howrah route have been cancelled for two days.

**Assumptions:**

- I. There has been a disruption due to derailment on the route.
  - II. Some part of the route is under flooded area.
  - III. Some part of the track has been blown away by the terrorists.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit.  
(d) Any one of the three is implicit.  
(e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

55. The resignation of a noted person from a key post, although claimed to be due to personal reasons is causing quite a stir in the department concerned.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The persons in the department were least expecting the person's resignation.
  - II. The noted person was fed up with the department.
  - III. The people in the department do not believe the 'personal reasons' explanation and suspect manipulation.
- (a) Only I is implicit.  
(b) Only I and II are implicit.  
(c) Only I and III are implicit.  
(d) None is implicit. (e) All are implicit.

**Statement:**

56. Political interference in the administration of justice is not a new phenomena.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Justice has been partial to political leaders.
  - II. Only the law department has had to suffer the interference of politicians.
  - III. Even in good old days, the politicians did not let loose the strings of their say in the administration of justice.
- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.

(c) Only III is implicit.

(d) Only I and III are implicit. (e) None is implicit.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three courses of action numbered I, II and III. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc on the basis of the information given in the statement. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the three suggested courses of action logically follows for pursuing.

**Statement:**

57. One of the leading political party is showing signs of split

**Courses of action:**

I. The leader of the party should have a fair talk with the dissatisfied members.

II. The rebels should be expelled from the party.

III. The party should change its ideals and manifestos

(a) Only I follows. (b) Either I or II follows

(c) Only III follows. (d) None follows.

(e) All the three follow

**Statement**

58. In one of the States, the MPs and the MLAs are being constantly attacked.

**Courses of action:**

I. Security round the VIPs should be tightened.

II. A special camp to learn self-defence and use of weapons should be organised for the MPs and MLAs.

III. All the MPs and MLAs of the State should be sent out of the State for safety reasons

(a) Only I follows (b) Only II follows

(c) Only III follows (d) None follows

(e) Either I or II follows

**Statement:**

59. More and more cases of asthma and throat problems are being reported from an area near a factory.

**Courses of action:**

I. The type of pollution spread by the factory should be checked.

II. If the place is heavily populated and pollution not under limits then some far away place should be allotted to the factory

III. A team of doctors should regularly check the inhabitants of the area.

(a) Only I follows (b) Only I and II follow.

(c) Only II and III follow (d) Only I and III follow

(e) All the three follow

**Statement**

60. Measures adopted for eradication of poverty in India are not sufficiently effective.

**Courses of action**

I. Population control, specially for people living in the shadow of poverty should be implemented immediately.

II. More vocational schools and technical institutes should be opened to enable people to have self-employment

III. The poor should be given poverty-allowance.

(a) Only I follows (b) Only II follows.

(c) Both I and II follow. (d) Either I or II follows.

(e) Only III follows

**Statement:**

61. Firm 'X' feels that its staff is not as efficient as the staff

of other rival firms.

**Courses of action:**

I. Firm 'X' should change the whole staff.

II. The firm should organize work-shops and other camps to increase the efficiency of the staff.

III. They should recruit more smart members.

(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.

(c) Only III follows. (d) Either I or II follows.

(e) Either II or III follows.

**Statement.**

62. Although, the results of an institution have been very good in quantitative way, they are far from satisfactory as far as quality is concerned.

**Courses of action**

I. The teachers should mark the talented students and give special attention to them

II. The admissions should be merit-based

III. Students should be provided with proper reference books and current magazines so as to add to their knowledge

(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only I and III follow

(c) Only I and II follow. (d) Only II follows

(e) All the three follow.

**Statement**

63. Most of the children from rural areas show signs of malnutrition

**Courses of action**

I. The parents of these areas should be made aware of the effects of malnutrition among children

II. Social workers and representatives from the Medical and Health department should instruct the inhabitants as how they could eat healthy food without spending much

III. Free tonics and vitamin tablets should be distributed amongst them

(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II and III follow

(c) All the three follow. (d) Only I and II follow

(e) None follows

**Statement.**

64. Jhuggi Jhopri areas are a shame for any metropolitan

**Courses of action**

I. The administration should try to provide low-cost houses for the low income group of population

II. Immigration from rural areas to metropolitans should be discouraged

III. Persons living in such areas should be prosecuted

(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.

(c) Only II and III follow. (d) Only I and II follow

(e) All the three follow.

Below is given a passage followed by several possible inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference separately in the context of the passage and decide upon the degree of truth or falsity. Mark your answers:

(a) if the inference is definitely true.

(b) if probably true.

(c) if the data is inadequate, hence doubtful.

(d) if probably false

(e) if definitely false.

In a sensational seizure, customs sleuths recovered 184 gold biscuits concealed in the dry-ice food trolley from a Frankfurt-Delhi flight at IGI airport. The massive gold-haul valued at over Rs 1 crore has had all the trappings of a

(a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐



# The Examiner's Guess Questions

**Q.** What are Sciotoons?

**Ans.** Sciotoons are science cartoons which are being used to teach science to children using multi-media. They convey scientific messages in a simple way, using illustrations and text like ordinary cartoons.

**Q.** What is the name of the German training ship that arrived in India recently?

**Ans.** The German naval training ship, "Gorch Fock" arrived in Cochin, its only port of call in India, as part of its longest voyage touching four continents. The ship began its journey on April 18, 1996 and will cover 33,000 nautical miles and terminate its cruise in March, 1997. The ship is used to learn the basics of seamanship, navigation and meteorology.

**Q.** With which country has India signed an aviation pact recently?

**Ans.** India and Spain have entered into an air services agreement which will enable Iberia Airlines to resume flights to the country after a gap of 8 years.

**Q.** What is the latest export price of wheat?

**Ans.** The government has raised the open sale price of wheat to Rs 4,900 per tonne (\$ 140) from Rs 4,410.

**Q.** When was the first motion picture shown in India?

**Ans.** The first motion picture was exhibited in India on July 7, 1896. Lumiere Brothers had shown 6 short films at the Watson hotel on that day.

**Q.** Who was the flag bearer for India at the Olympic games at Atlanta?

**Ans.** Captain of the Indian hockey team Pargat Singh, was the flag bearer at the Olympics in Atlanta. At the closing ceremony, Leander Paes was the flag-bearer.

**Q.** Name the mascot of the Olympic games.

**Ans.** Izzy.

**Q.** Which company bought the rights for live telecast of the Olympics?

**Ans.** Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd (ABCL) bought the marketing rights to live telecast of the Atlanta Olympics on Doordarshan.

**Q.** When was the World Population Day observed?

**Ans.** July 11, 1996.

**Q.** What is the height of the Sardar Sarovar project that has been agreed upon by Chief Ministers of the Narmada basin States?

**Ans.** The height of the Sardar Sarovar project has been agreed to be 455 feet by the Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh wanted the height to be 436 feet while Gujarat treats the project as its "lifeline" and wanted it to be 455 feet.

**Q.** What is the level of milk output in India?

**Ans.** India has emerged as the top dairy nation with milk production crossing 70 million tonnes in 1995-96. The US was earlier the top milk producer with an output of 68 million tonnes. India's production last year was 63.5 million tonnes. India's milk production was only 20 million tonnes in the early 70s. The "Operation Flood" had resulted in more than trebling the milk production.

**Q.** What is the new name of the city of Madras?

**Ans.** Chennai. Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi said that the change was part of the steps for growth of Tamil in various fields.

**Q.** What is the allocation for defence in the budget?

**Ans.** Rs 27,798 crore. As percentage of GDP, defence expenditure fell from 2.39

to 2.3 per cent. The allocation for defence does not even cover the increase of price over the year, since the petroleum price rise is expected to cost the military an additional Rs 400 crore.

**Q.** What is the plan outlay for the agricultural sector for 1996-97?

**Ans.** Rs 2020 crore.

**Q.** What is the new price of post cards used for competitions?

**Ans.** The government has introduced a new category of post cards called "competition post cards" which are priced at Rs 2. They will be used for entering competitions announced in the media. Printed post cards would now cost Re 1 while the registration fee has been raised from Rs 6 to Rs 8.

**Q.** What is the budget allocation for the transport sector this year?

**Ans.** Rs 15,972 crore. This represents an increase of Rs 4,009 crore over the last year's figure of Rs 11,963 crore.

**Q.** What are the thrust areas described in the budget as broad objectives?

**Ans.** 1. Providing basic minimum services to the poor

2. Increase in agriculture, industry and services to achieve high employment

3. Ensuring fiscal prudence and micro-economic stability

4. Enhancing investment in infrastructural sectors

5. Key interventions for human development.

6. Viability in balance of payments through strong export performance.

**Q.** Which company is the sole Internet Service Provider in the country?

**Ans.** Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd (VSNL).

**Q.** What is the new name for Frontier Express?

**Ans.** Golden Temple Express.

# September: Before and After Independence

## Before Independence

Significant events that took place during the month of September include the British Government's announcement of partition of Bengal on **September 1, 1905**, British Government's granting permission to Lala Hardyal to return to India after 27 years on **September 21, 1938**, formation of Interim Government under Jawahar Lal Nehru on **September 2, 1946**. However, in this section we shall focus on 'the Poona Pact', 'Ending of Protests', 'Quitting of Politics'.

### Poona Pact

Ramsay Macdonald's communal award caused grave distress among Indian leaders. The award provided for separate 'Hindu', 'Untouchable' and 'Muslim' electorates in the new federal legislatures. It treated 'Hindus' and 'Harijans' as two separate political entities. Mahatma Gandhi spearheaded a move to foil the British policy of 'divide and rule'. To pressurize British Government to withdraw the Award, Mahatma Gandhi on **September 20, 1932** began 'fast unto death' in the prison. Finally on **September 24, 1932** the Poona Pact was made in Yervada Jail which provided for reservation of seats for Harijans in the general elections.

### Ending of Protests

A number of historic protests ended during the months of September. For instance, on **September 12, 1928** the strike in Tata Iron and Steel Co. in Jamshedpur, which started on June 1, came to an end after Subhash Chandra Bose's intervention. Following the death of Jatindra Nath Dass (after over two months of his fasting), on **September 14, 1929** Sardar Bhagat Singh abandoned his hunger strike on prison reforms. Another notable strike-*nee*-Satyagrah, of 'September' pertained to that of Harijans. It was a unique protest launched by Harijans that too in front

of Mahatma Gandhi's Saegaon Ashram. They pressed upon the inclusion of Harijans in the Central Province Ministry. The protest picked up during **September 1938**. It continued unabated till **September 19, 1938** when on the assurance from Mahatma Gandhi they withdrew the Satyagrah.

### Quitting Politics

During the months of September two prominent Indian leaders of pre-independence era announced their decision to quit politics. On **September 17, 1934** Mahatma Gandhi, while publicly sharing that "there are fundamental differences between me and its principal office-bearers; they have only lip sympathy for the constructive work; no body is prepared to work", announced his decision to quit Congress. Later Vinoba Bhave announced retirement on **September 6, 1935**.

### After Independence

In this section we shall focus on the events pertaining to the 'Merger of Hyderabad', 'Inaugurations', 'Indo-Pak war' and Mihir's feats.

### Merger of Hyderabad

When 13 months of persuasions failed to convince Nizam to join India the Government of India, impelled by Nizam's design to internationalize the issue, resorted to military action. On **September 12, 1948** Indian troops, under the command of Major General Choudhry, entered Hyderabad. Indian troops did not face much resistance. Finally on **September 17, 1948** Nizam of Hyderabad ordered cease-fire and Hyderabad Army laid down its arms.

### Inaugurations

During the months of September a number of projects were inaugurated in India. For instance, on **September 8, 1964** the first STD route in India was

introduced between Delhi and Jaipur. On **September 26, 1969** the then President Mr V.V. Giri inaugurated India's most modern oil refinery at Manali near Madras. On **September 16, 1970** the then Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi inaugurated Salem Steel Plant. On **September 6, 1985** Rajiv Gandhi inaugurated the Silent Valley National Park. On **September 29, 1994** P.V. Narasimha Rao unveiled the foundation stone for the 1084 Megawatt Thermal Power Station at Bhadravati, Chandrapur.

### Indo-Pak War

The first regular war between India and Pakistan took place in September, 1965. To give a final blow to weeks long intermittent firing from across the boarder, on **September 1, 1965**, 28 Indian Air Force planes got into action against Pakistan. On **September 6, 1965** Indian troops crossed into West Pakistan in Lahore sector from three directions and IAF blew-off Pakistani oil tanker and a goods train. On **September 9** a record number of Pakistani Tanks (75) were knocked out in 24 hrs. Finally, on **September 20, 1965** the UN Security Council demanded 'the Governments of India and Pakistan to effect cease-fire *w.e.f.* 12.30 P.M. on 22.9.65'. While India religiously respected the cease-fire, Pakistani plane violated the cease-fire barely after two hours.

### Mihir's feats

It was during the months of September that Mihir Sen undertook his epoch-making swims. For instance, on **September 27, 1958** Mihir Sen became the first Indian to cross the English Channel. On **September 12, 1966** Mihir Sen became the first man to swim the Dardanelles Straits, a distance of about 64 kms in 13 hours and 55 minutes. On **September 21, 1966** he swam across 25.6 km long Straits of Bospotus.

#### APPOINTED; ELECTED ETC

**Sahabuddin Ahmad:** He is the new President of Bangladesh.

**Romesh Bhandari:** He has been appointed Governor of UP.

**P.C. Alexander:** Maharashtra Governor, he has also been made Governor of Goa.

**Suraj Bhan:** BJP MP, he has been elected Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

**Madhu Dandavate:** He has been appointed as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

**Ashok Desai:** He has been appointed Attorney General of India.

**T.R. Andhyarujina:** He is the new Solicitor-General of India

**T.S.R. Subhramanyam:** He has been appointed Union Cabinet Secretary,

**Joginder Singh:** He has been appointed Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

**Albert S. Chernyshev:** He has been appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India.

**T.K. Banerji:** He has been appointed as the Defence Secretary of India.

**N.M. Govardhan:** He has taken over as Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

**N.R. Rangachary:** He has been appointed as Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Authority.

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**Viktor Klima:** Finance Minister of Austria.

#### RESIGNED

**Mohammad Taslimuddin:** Union Minister of State for Home Affairs.

#### DIED

**Aruna Asaf Ali:** Freedom fighter, who played a prominent role in the 1942 Quit India movement. She was 88.

**Raj Kumar:** Noted actor, known as *Panditji* in film circles. He died at the age of 65.

**Anna Chandy:** The first woman to become a High Court judge in India and the first woman judicial officer in the whole of the Commonwealth. She was 92.

27—A bomb rips through the Olympics Centennial Park in Atlanta killing at least two people and wounding more than 100.

29—China conducts a nuclear test and announces a moratorium on further testing as delegates from 61 countries gather in Geneva to resume discussions on the CTBT.

#### AUGUST

3—Leander Paes ends India's Olympic medal drought by winning a bronze medal at the Olympics in Atlanta.

4—A Pakistani High Commission official in London is deported from the UK for running a nuclear technology acquisition network.

5—More than 200 Tamil guerrillas are killed as Sri Lankan Infantry thrashes through the defences of the LTTE.

—The Atlanta Olympic games come to a close.

6—Former Punjab Police Chief K.P.S Gill is convicted for outraging the modesty of a woman IAS official and is sentenced to three months rigorous imprisonment.

## EVENTS

### JULY

4—A guerilla attack on a government motorcade in Sri Lanka kills 21 people and seriously injures minister of housing and reconstruction Nimal Siripala.

—President Boris Yeltsin gets a resounding victory in Russia, defeating rival Gennady Zyuganov, shattering hopes of a communist victory.

7—A colourful procession in South Mumbai marks 100 years of arrival of cinema in India.

11—Nine people, including 3 crew members, are killed as a Kulu-bound plane crashes into the hills in Mandi district in HP.

12—The Lok Sabha extends President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir till January 18, 1997.

—At least 21 people are massacred, allegedly by activists of Ranveer Sena, in

Bhojpur district of Bihar.

15—Twin tragedies in Ujjain and Hardwar claim the lives of 54 pilgrims.

16—1996-97 Railway budget is presented.  
—Six Indian tourists are abducted and shot by militants in Srinagar.

18—About 400 soldiers are killed and several wounded by a massive raid by LTTE militants in Sri Lanka.

—A Paris-bound TWA airliner explodes in a fireball, killing all 229 people on board, after take off from New York's Kennedy International Airport.

20—The biggest Olympics in history open in Atlanta.

24—Militants explode two bombs in a crowded train in Sri Lanka killing 69 people and wounding more than 600.

25—India rejects an appeal by the US to accept a draft Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

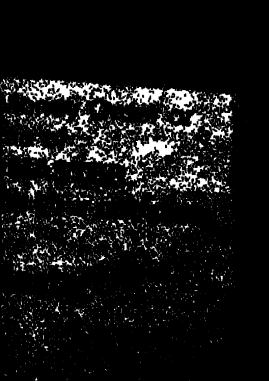
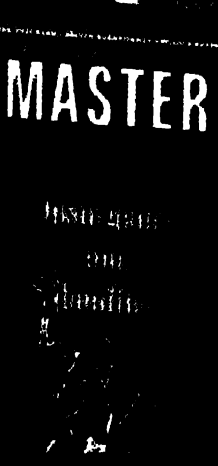
## MILESTONES

**P.C. Rao:** Union Law Secretary, he has been elected as a judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

**Namrata and Supreet Chandi:** Commissioned as pilots of the Indian Air Force, they are the country's first pair of sister pilots. They had also made it to the Guinness Book of World Records by flying the Chetak aircraft together earlier in May, 1996.

**Zakir Hussain:** Famous tabla player, he co-composed the ceremonial music at the Centennial Olympiad field at Atlanta.

**Pargat Singh:** Captain of the Indian hockey team, who was given the honour to be the flag bearer of the country's contingent at the Opening Ceremony of the Atlanta Olympic games.



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THE COMPETITION

# MASTER

From the Desk of the

## Editor



*Dear Masters,*

**L**ast month, when newspapers were busy exposing the dubious activities of yet another minister of the Rao government, and his bureaucrat secretary, to a cynical and benumbed India, the world was electrified with a piece of amazing news: the possibility of life having existed on Mars. Scientists believe that a rock may have travelled all the way from the red planet and crashed into an ice field in Antarctica some 13,000 years ago.

The photographs indeed show something which may resemble life. But the theory is still to be tested and more news may come later. Nevertheless, it does show the painstaking study that goes into such projects. It shows that creativity engulfs all fields; in this case the attempt was to see beyond a set of data. Each discovery starts off like that, and each adds insights to our understanding of the universe and also of ourselves. The first pictures of our planet, for example, showed the earth as a fragile ecosystem and gave the understanding of environmental matters. It did not immediately banish pollution, but it certainly helped build an awareness of the environment. Science is, thus, a creative metaphor, whether it is the study of snails or space exploration.

Will India be a bystander to all this? Even now, we hear disgruntled voices asking what's the point in studying rocks found in all parts of the world? Which can easily be translated to: what is the point to excel and work in any field? What is the point of working hard for exams, or for the Olympics? We must come out of this cynical thinking and develop a strong work ethic and reward the creative thinkers.

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## A Unique Course

Bapna's Will/Shall Rule and other material in this course cannot be copied by others because this material is based on our research, and we own the copyright and trademarks.

## Who Can Benefit

This course is not for all. It is for you only if you are among the following:

- If you studied in non-English medium schools
- If you can understand English when others speak, but you are not sure of correct way to write or speak English
- If you sometimes make mistakes or get confused when speaking English
- If you have used traditional books/coaching to learn English, but did not get success
- If you are a student, teacher, professor, doctor, CA, ICWA, CS, MBA, engineer, scientist, musician, secretary, phone operator, clerk, businessman
- If you are highly motivated to learn simple and powerful English easily and quickly

## I Was Weak in English

I was born in Rajasthan where people are weak in English. I studied in government non-English medium schools. So, I was also weak in English.

On my way to Pilani to join B.E., at Chirawa railway station, I met one P.V. Reddy from Andhra Pradesh who was also going to Pilani to join B.E.

I started speaking in Hindi. Mr Reddy said "I do not know Hindi". It was a surprise and shock for me that someone did not know Hindi. I had never talked in English before and I was not confident of talking in English. So, I said "I do not know English".

## My Struggle to Learn English

In Pilani, in the first semester I was a topper with 10 out of 10 grade points, but I was not confident in English. So, I worried about my weak English.

I bought many books, guides, dictionaries, newspapers. I took one month to read my first novel R. K. Narayan's "The Guide" because I had to search so many words in the dictionary.

I worked hard, but improvement was very slow. I even thought of dropping one semester, sitting at home, and learning only English. That time I decided "If I become successful in life, I will do something for people from non-English medium schools like myself."

## My Dream Comes True

I continued to work hard. And finally I got success in America. I improved English and became a successful author in USA. Then I returned to India. Today, I am happy to offer you this course in English—my second dream has come true.

My first dream was to teach students "how to study and how to use more mind power" to get success in exams and competitions. That course has changed thousands and thousands of lives in the last 1 years. I am more proud of my research in India

than my success in USA.

## Our New Research

In English, there are many ways to say anything. Some ways are easy and some are difficult and confusing. We did research to find which are easy ways and which are difficult ways for people from non-English medium schools. In this process, we also discovered that some of the world's best magazines and books use the simple ways of writing English. This was an unexpected surprise for our research team.

For example, we found that Reader's Digest uses simple way of writing. (Because that magazine is for English speaking countries, some of the vocabulary is difficult for non-English people.) Similarly, many advertisements use simple English because it is powerful (Remember that companies pay lakhs of rupees to develop advertisements.)

We developed this new course only for people from non-English medium schools like you.

## Easy to Learn 5 Parts

If you can understand this article, you can surely understand my course. And greatly benefit from it. Our belief and experience show that teaching English through simple English is better than teaching to translate. Why? Because it helps students to learn to think in English.

The complete course has 5 parts for easy learning:

- Part 1: Essential English
- Part 2: Important and Helpful Usage
- Part 3: How to Write in a Powerful, Effective, and Result-Oriented Way
- Part 4: Advanced Topics
- Part 5: Mini Spelling Dictionary

Part 1 is so easy and powerful that, by itself, it is worth more than the full price for the complete course.

## BIO-DATA

- B.E., BITS Pilani. M.Tech, IIT Kharagpur, NTSE scholar. Rank 5 Ray School Board.
- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including a best selling book "MS-DOS Masters" costing \$27.95
- Increased my reading speed from 72 to 1017 words per minute. Was a member of Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA.
- Expert. computers, study techniques, mind power.
- My first job as an engineer paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Just 7 years later, I earned \$50 or Rs 1500 per HOUR in USA as computer expert.
- At the peak of success, I returned to India. I did not take a job. Now, I spend my full time to do research for my students' benefit.
- I also learnt French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board by hand, many Meditations, etc.



## Benefit from My Mind Power Expertise

You may know that I am an expert in the fields of Mind Power, Study Techniques, and Computers. I have used this knowledge to make my English course easy to learn and easy to remember for you.

You begin to improve on the very first day you get this course. You learn simple and powerful English with my course in two steps:

**Step 1:** Study for 1 hour per day. You can complete it in 25 to 40 days.

**Step 2:** For the next 2 months, revise it for 2 hours per week. After that, for the next 2 months, revise it for 1 hour per week. In this way, your learning will become permanent.

## Pocket Cards for Faster Learning

Keep them in your pocket to revise in school, in college, in bus, in park, in playground, etc. So, you use the time which other people waste. No other course gives you such useful pocket cards.

## Improve Fluency

Being fluent means that you can say anything in English in flow without hesitation. Some people judge you from how fluent you are in English.

To be fluent, you need to (1) be able to say almost anything in English (2) be sure that your sentence is correct.

This course will improve your fluency in both these ways. Remember, fluency helps you to get better job or faster promotion, and to speak confidently at parties or with friends.

## Helpful for Students

If a student can learn to write simple but correct English, he can avoid many common mistakes.

In exams, teachers give marks for correct usage/answers and deduct marks for mistakes. This course will help you to avoid mistakes and get more marks. In this way, my course will help you build foundation in English for school/college exams and also for IAS, State Administrative Services, MBA, GRE, TOEFL, Clerk, Bank PO, etc.

## For You and Your Family

Today I believe that if someone gave me a course/book half as good as this course, I could learn English easily without struggle. And without wasting years of valuable time. But unfortunately, at that time only ineffective books with hundreds of rules were available.

I believe that, for people who did not study in English medium, my English course is the best in the world at any price.

Just take my English course in your hands. It will surprise you as to how light weight it is. But, use it for just one hour and you will automatically know that my course is worth its weight in gold. Why? Because it can help you and your family to learn simple and powerful English quickly and easily.

## You Decide ...

Do you feel that learning to write and speak simple and powerful English will make you more confident in speaking? Or, will it help you to get success faster in your education, business, or career? Are you highly motivated to learn English quickly without much hard work? If your answer is yes, then you should order this course today.

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# Democracy on Trial

**D**emocracy itself accomplishes salutary changes from the sordid and makes a new world gradually. The ills of democracy are cured neither by its abolition nor by its suppression. They are cured by more and liberal doses of it. It is on this postulate that democracy survives and thrives. In this backdrop, the suspension of elections for nearly a decade in the troubled State of Jammu and Kashmir amounted to denial of democracy. With the elections in the State slated in the month of September in a phased manner, the stigma stands neutralized. That the elections to the 87-member State assembly will usher in an era of normalcy, peace and prosperity is yet a shade doubtful but judging from a similar earlier exercise in Punjab, hope holds high promise—despite the sponsored killings and bursts of violence.

That the elections are going to be four-phased indicates the government's eagerness to make fool-proof security arrangements. It was done so in the Lok Sabha elections held in May. This is all to the good because this election is an extraordinary one—inviting the glare of international limelight. Already the U.S. Ambassador to India has visited the State and had talks with Shabir Shah and others. Senator Brown has also jumped into the fray. Put two and two together!

There have been instances of ultras raising slogans in favour of Pakistan and hoisting the national flag of that country. The Congress-National Conference Coalition led by Dr Farooq Abdullah had the dubious distinction of letting this happen. What has been happening in the State is a part of its unglorious history.

People in huge hordes have been made to desert their homes and hearths. Nearly 3 lakh Kashmiri Pandits were hounded out of the valley. A large number of people has been killed by the ultras. Tourists have been captured, killed or held hostages. Pak designs are obvious.

Now comes the chance for the political parties, national and others, to feel the pulse of the people, apply the healing touch to their psychic hurts, pull them out of their trauma,

and shape their destiny—giving a lethal blow to the destroyers of democracy. The chance must not be frittered as the ultras will like the emerging leadership to be consigned to the limbo. Dr Abdullah double-speaks after keeping out of parliamentary elections. People showed that he was not indispensable. The All Party Hurriyat Conference is highly suspect as its leaders are their master's voice!

The Union government has dangled a bait—there will be "autonomy" for the State but its quantum will be decided by the elected representatives in the



assembly. This is a blow to the self-proclaimed messiah of the masses—Dr Abdullah. The Election Commission, the Union government, the security forces are determined to see that no foolery foils their effort. Hopefully, elections will throw up a different government capable, on its strength and sensibility, to adopt a flexible and cooperative attitude which works in the interests of the tormented and tortured people of the State. Elections are the beginning of a decent, democratic way of life, not the end. The end is good life for the people. The democratic timber and tempo of the people as well as of the leaders is on trial. The nation watches with its fingers crossed

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# READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100 00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

## India's fifty years

Freedom does not mean enjoyment, as many of us are likely to think. It means freedom from exploitation and corruption, as also to achieve goals that one wants to. If we are free then we should make our country free in the many ways that are denoted by the word 'freedom'.

Suhas V Marathe  
Baroda, Gujarat

## Debacle at Atlanta

The reason for India's dismal performance at the Atlanta Olympics is that all our players except Leander Paes lacked total commitment. Had the players of stature put in concerted efforts and authorities used expertise efficiently, there would be no reason why India would have kept lingering on in the Bronze Age.

Jagdeep Malik  
Ludhiana, Punjab

Instead of politicians, sports personalities like Sunil Gavaskar or Leander Paes should be made Minister of Sports. Their interest, devotion and experience in the field would help in understanding the requirements of sports. Only if there is a radical change in our approach can we reverse the ignominy suffered by us in international sport.

Sunil Barthwal  
Dehradun, U P

In my opinion, our country should have a token participation only till the time that we reach a certain level. In the meantime, we should spread awareness about sports.

Dinesh Kumar Dubey  
Bahraich, U P

## Budget '96

While most provisions of the budget are unexceptional, I am unable to understand why the MAT has been introduced. We should be removing fiscal controls so that companies do not have any incentive to evade taxes. With the introduction of MAT, I fear that companies will once again be forced to find ways of tax evasion.

Subhash N Chaudhari  
Nagpur, Maharashtra

## Prohibition

The debate in your August issue was excellent. After reading it, I have been able to form my own views. I think that the country should impose prohibition in all the States and should not depend on earning excise at the cost of social good. If this is done slowly, people will be able to get over their drinking habit and begin to engage in other activities and self development.

Paramita Palit  
Bhubaneswar, Orissa

## Status of Women

The culture of a country can be judged by the status that it accords to its women. If women are free, the country is also free. Though history is full of examples of brave women, in modern society women's position has declined. What is the use of scientific advancement if half of humanity is suppressed?

Shemal Sinha  
Bhagalpur, Bihar

## CM Features

I am delighted to inform you that I have been selected in the Assistant Grade Examination. The *Competition Master* has been a constant companion for me for the preparation. I sincerely thank you for the support provided to me.

Pradeep Kumar Sharma  
Muzaffarnagar, U P

The debate/discussion feature is unique and offers new insights into the subject. I have a suggestion please publish the topic of discussion one month in advance so that readers can express their

## We should honour our great

Why does our country delay in honouring its great people? Take the case of T N Seshan. Almost everyone was deriding him and the government appointed two election commissioners to cut him down to size. Though he single-handedly cleansed the electoral system, none in our country thought of honouring him. Now that he has been honoured with the Magsaysay award, it would be no surprise if the government or other organisations too think of giving him awards. Till the country honours its great people and stops looking at foreign countries for approval, I doubt we can introduce a culture of hard work and achievement.

Sunil Kumar  
Vasco de Gama, Goa

## Let's improve ourselves

We know that our leaders are corrupt, but there is no point talking about their activities all the time. In the fiftieth year of our country, we should forget about them and instead concentrate on building our own character and morals. Slowly, our generation will be strong enough to take over the reins of the country and guide it morally and honestly.

Harish Navyar  
Chamba, H P

views. It will provide a suitable forum to readers who may have views about the subject.

Manish Aurora  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

## REQUEST TO READERS

May be you have appeared in some competitive exams recently. We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. All those sending the original question papers will be suitably compensated and the original papers will be returned.

—Editor

## ESSAY

# Quality of Life

**Q**UALITY of a nation is reflected in the quality of life of its nationals. Quality of life is a complex concept with various dimensions. Complexities have two broad dimensions, physical (objective conditions of society) and psychological (subjective perceptions of its inhabitants), and to regulate these is an uphill task. To quote from a journal *Social Indicators' Research*, "the quality of air people breathe and water they drink, the value and quantity of food they take, the size and quality of their shelter, the satisfaction they derive from their family life and their job, the degree of their participation in the affairs of their community, indices of work and safety, the number of books read and theatrical performances attended—all these qualify as quality of life indicators."

Quality of life must be the foremost concern of any government. Any betterment of conditions must proceed more from the planners and executors downwards rather than being forced up from below. And, the development strategy should keep the 'people' at the centre stage. Such strategy hinges on the concept of sustainable human development.

India lacks dynamic development strategy. However, it does not imply that Indian economy lacks development; what it means is that development process does not maintain pace with population explosion. Population growth eats away the fruits of development. The unprecedented population growth has put tremendous pressure on existing infrastructure. Consequently, development process slows down. Bio-social life is, thus, disturbed since housing, civil and health amenities, transport, power and water supply are affected. The rate of depleting natural resources also accelerates. Non-availability of essential goods and commodities increases, leading

to inflation. The employment dynamics cycle is also disturbed, leading to unemployment and under-employment. It also leads to changes in land use patterns. Environment is polluted. Dissatisfaction on economic and social fronts adds to socio-economic tensions and socio-political agitation. Poor nutrition, poor availability and quality of health services, lack of immunization combine to result in low life expectancy and high infant mortality. Surely, all these do not reflect desired quality of life.

To encounter this adverse impact the government has to plan a strategy which



To improve the  
Quality of life,  
political commitment,  
more responsive  
administration and whole  
hearted participation of  
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is a must.

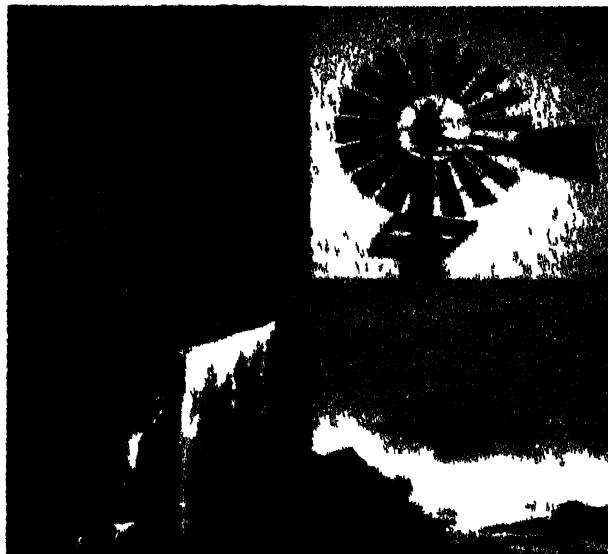
on one hand targets population growth and on the other improves the prospects for economic growth. Sound education, particularly to develop understanding, awareness, attitude, responsible and informed decision-making and behaviour for improving quality of life, would bring about the necessary awareness in people. Population education, can play a decisive role in making understand the inter-relationship of population dynamics and other factors of quality of life. The committed media needs to be harnessed to create public awareness. Special incentives, for illiterate to follow small family norm, can bring positive results. Child labour should be banned completely so that there is no incentive to have more children. Chanakya said, "Have one good son whom you properly feed and educate. There is no sense of having a hundred fools."

On the economic front, the government needs to evolve people-oriented development models. It demands agriculture workers, marginal and middle farmers, small industrialist etc may be organised in a broad social groups and a new economic programme should be designed to benefit them directly. Globalisation is the need of the moment, but in pursuance of this target the government should not reduce investment in growth of human capital i.e., expenditure on health, nutrition and education. Liberalisation is expected to result in economic growth which will improve revenues. The additional revenues should be invested in human capital. Such investment will reduce inequalities in health and education services, ultimately improving quality of life.

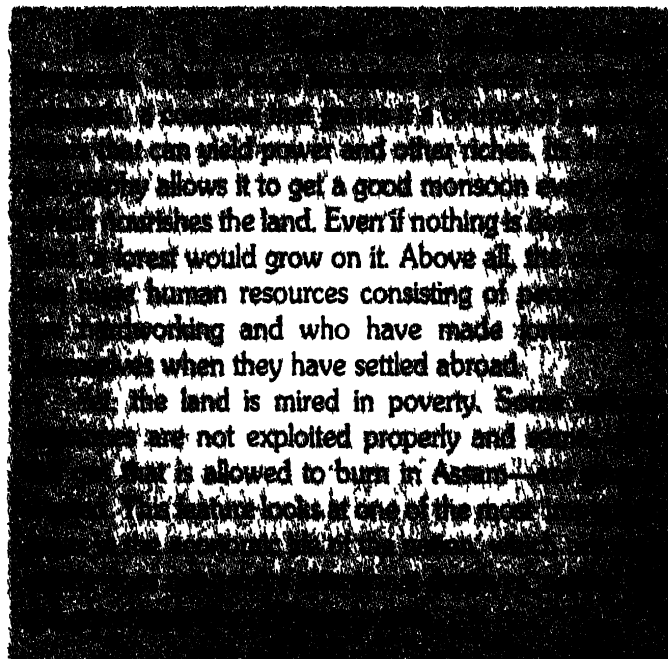
To improve the quality of life, political commitment, more responsive administration and whole-hearted participation of the people is a must



# India's



## Under-Utilised Natural Resources



In every budget, the Finance Minister presents a series of proposals, among which are several incentives for industrial growth. Growth rates are talked about and hopes are expressed that the country would be on the path to becoming a developed nation. Surprisingly, however, the core sector, on which much of the growth is hinged, hardly gets the attention it deserves. This sector consists of coal, power, steel and so on. Each has a direct bearing on growth: if a tonne of coal is not produced, the power plant will not produce that extra kilowatt of power that will cause an industry somewhere to shut down. In that sense, the output of the core sector has a multiplier effect on the economy.

Yet, it is neglected. Each of these sectors is a story of mismanagement. Shortages plague them, in spite of huge potential. Mahas have come to dominate the supplies, a result of neglect and mismanagement. Nowhere is this more evident than in the coal industry.

### Coal

Coal signifies the rot that plagues the natural resources in India. While coal production has been rising and so has its sale value, the sector is marked by waste and corruption. The workers get a raw deal, and their plight is highlighted only when a disaster takes place. The CBI unearthed a fraud three years ago which showed coal worth crores of rupees had been pilfered by a network of officials

and criminals.

The loot of the country's natural resource continues unabated. The Mishra committee, appointed by the Ministry of Coal, showed that Rs 600 crore worth of coal was stolen since 1983-84. It has recommended the sacking of 17 senior officials and action against 200 others involved in the racket. However, no action was taken and the officers have since been promoted.

The Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd, has made corruption and waste into a hallmark. BCL, reportedly, has suffered a loss of Rs 1,617 crore. Its net worth has been completely wiped out and its board has taken a decision to refer the company to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). This is indeed ironical considering that coal, like other natural resources, is country's asset. How can assets produce losses?

BCL has also encouraged the local mafia, which is part of it. Apologists say that when the company was nationalised, the private owners made sure their goons were given employment. Today, they extort *rangdari*, or protection money, from workers and local businessmen. Almost one-third of the 1.48 lakh workers are said to be surplus. Of its total revenue of Rs 155 crore, BCL is said to spend Rs 187 crore. Some Rs 2,000 crore worth of machines are lying unused due to technical suitability. So organised is the fraud that almost everyone is involved, at one point a BCL general manager, who

had once received the President's award for outstanding performance, was arrested by the CBI for corruption and fraud.

The story of coal in our country is a shameless story of looting the natural resources. Why is it not set right? Simply because of vested interests and lack of will. Can a country whose core sector is outside its control ever progress?

Coal imports have consistently crossed the six million tonne mark in the past years. Another major constraint faced by the coal companies is low productivity, which has stagnated at 0.55 tonnes per man shift. The coal sector also has a problem of outstanding dues. It is estimated that more than Rs 4,200 crore are owed to Coal India by electricity boards, railways and other companies.

The Plan outlay for Coal India has increased from Rs 1,850 crore in 1994-95 to Rs 2,260 crore in 1995-96. It remains to be seen whether private investment will make any difference to this sector. To encourage investment, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, was amended in June, 1993 to enable the operation of captive coal mines by private sector companies engaged in the production of iron and steel, power generation and washing of coal. It is a strange way to solve problems: first, a company sets up a power generating unit since the electricity supply is bad, and then it must open its own mine since the coal supplies are poor!

## Mining

India has large reserves of high grade bauxite, ranking fifth in the world and accounting for 11 per cent of the world's deposit. Aluminium output has fluctuated, but after 1992-93 demand has picked up due to a boom in cars, construction and packaging industry. However, there is a gap between demand and supply in the major metals:

Demand	(MT)
Copper	204,000
Lead	79,100
Zinc	200,400

Production	
Copper	81,000
Lead	45,655
Zinc	141,374

In order to encourage private investment in mining, the sector was opened up. Despite a policy statement in 1993 welcoming foreign investment, few global mining companies have been able to break fresh ground in the country. The mining industry has been mired in obsolete technology for years and whether the government opens the sector in the real sense of the word remains to be seen.

The few cases where privatisation was attempted, have seen controversies since they were not handled well. The award of the 11-B iron ore mine in Bailadila (Madhya Pradesh), to the Ispat group, has been challenged on the ground that the award was made without competitive bidding and that it was given too cheaply.

In another case, the lease of the Sukinda chromite mines in Orissa was extended

to Tisco. Congress (I) MP, Mr G.C. Munda, has been protesting against the decision. In both the cases, the process of privatisation has suffered. While there is no doubt that the public sector organisations cannot do the job, critics point out that privatisation should not mean selling out the country's resources cheaply to business houses. In these arguments and counter arguments, a stalemate has been reached. The government is unwilling to take any further decisions, delaying privatisation in an area that desperately needs to be freed from the death grip of the public sector. Since development of many industries are based on this sector, it is hoped that the government can set its house in order and take up reforms where they are needed most.

## Petroleum

After three consecutive years of decline followed by an year of stagnation, crude oil production embarked on a recovery in 1994-95. Oil production attained a peak of 34.09 million tonnes in 1989-90 but by 1992-93, it had declined to 26.95 million tonnes. Since then it has been increasing, it being 32.23 million tonnes in 1994-95. Production is estimated at 34.55 tonnes for 1995-96. The production and consumption figures indicate that much of the oil and natural gas has to be imported:

Production	(MT)
LPG	1.539
Naptha	5.969
Kerosene	5.253
HSD	20.663

Consumption	(MT)
LPG	3.481
Naptha	3.352
Kerosene	8.461
HSD	29.315

Offshore crude from Bombay High accounts for nearly two-thirds of domestic production. Lapses in wells management led to extensive damage and by April 1991, nearly 15 per cent of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) wells were sick. A wells rectification programme was completed in 1994 and the Neelam oil field was also commissioned, which has led to increase in production.

India depends on imported oil to meet the demand. The government maintains an oil pool account, which manages the inflow and outflow of the country's oil transactions. Without the recent increases in prices of oil, deficit in this account would have risen to Rs 11,700 crore.

Last year, the government drew up a four-point strategy to enhance energy security, with the objective to ensure that petroleum products are available across the country at the minimum cost and on a regular basis. Further, it seeks to maximise India's share in the global oil reserves. The strategy consists of:

1. **Exploration abroad:** Domestic oil companies like ONGC and Oil India Ltd will take up exploration abroad. This will earn them foreign exchange for purchase of oil.

2. **New Refineries:** Oil exporting countries to be allowed to set up new refineries in the country. Oman Oil and Kuwait Petroleum Corp

are doing so. This will help domestic production.

**3. Pipeline grid:** To ensure quick and free movement, a pipeline grid is to be built. This will save transportation costs.

**4. Strategic reserves:** The petroleum ministry wants to build up a 45-day reserves in certain areas. Through this, the country can tide over a temporary shortage.

## Power

The country has lived with power shortages for many years and the situation has become increasingly grim over the years. There have been unprecedented power cuts, unscheduled load shedding, voltage fluctuations and transformer burn-outs. The losses due to power shortages are not only due to loss in production, but also in

terms of manhours lost and machines burning out. This is, thus, another crucial sector for industrial growth but has been mismanaged by the State Electricity Boards, on the one hand, and lack of planning at the Central level, on the other.

The country's requirement for 1995-96 was 389.721 billion units but availability was 354.045 billion units, leaving a gap of 9.2 per cent.

Transmission and distribution losses continue to be on the higher side, though they show a declining trend. From 21.8 per cent in 1991-92, they are 18.91 per cent in 1995-96. Rural electrification is picking up and 86 per cent of the total villages have been electrified.

The critical problem in the power sector continues to be the poor performance of State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Commercial losses of

the SEBs were Rs 6,332 crore in 1994-95, which have increased to Rs 7,130 crore in 1995-96.

An action plan has been drawn up to improve the performance of the power sector. In the short term, boilers would be overhauled and optimal operation of the regional grids would be targeted. Proper maintenance planning, as well as renovation of older plants in the long run, have been planned.

While the sector can be improved by these measures, there is an increased tendency to politicise issues relating to power plants. The Enron controversy managed to delay the project while another has been created over the Cogentrix project. If transparency is built into these projects, such delays could well be avoided.

The sector is not without its share of corruption either. Some officials of the power sector featured in the hawala scandal, showing that some cleaning is required here too.

The power sector could have benefited greatly from renewable sources of energy. India has a large land mass, many parts of which is uninhabited, as in Rajasthan. Wind energy could have been developed in such areas. But wind energy is miniscule and nothing much has been done. As far as hydroelectricity is concerned, the mega-dam projects too have been stuck in controversies. Adequate compensation has not been given to the oustees while there are environmental concerns as well. The country has not been able to address these crucial areas so far.

## Human Capital

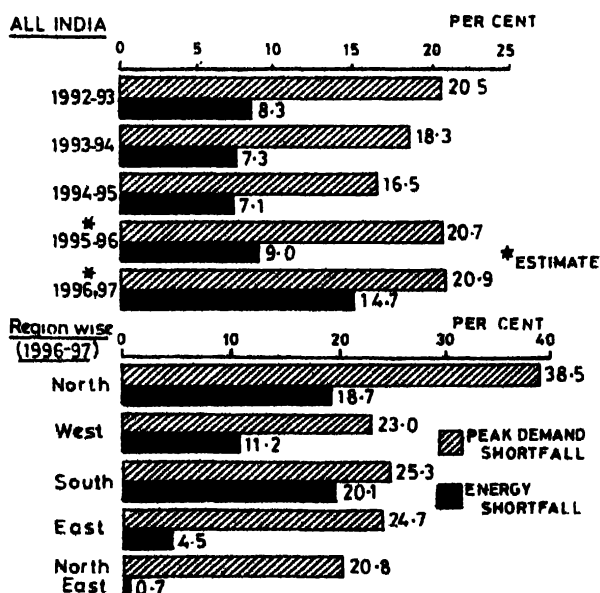
Ask any person what are the major problems of India and chances are that our huge population will be mentioned. It is the same population, however, that goes abroad and becomes assets in the countries of their choice, by sheer hard work and labour. Why are they not considered assets here?

The answer lies in the fact that the country has done nothing to develop its manpower. Lack of investment in education and training makes India's population a drain on resources. On the other hand, in growth industries there is shortage of manpower with adequate education and skills. In the telecom industry, for example, there are only about 1000 workers who are technically qualified to serve as managers, compared to the projected demand of 10,000 over the next three years.

Much of India's labour can be used in low-grade, manual work only. This is reflected in figures of value added per worker in manufacturing: whereas a worker adds 63,430 dollars worth of value in Japan, 27,243 in Singapore and 16,980 in South Korea, the Indian worker just adds 6,286 dollars worth of value by his toil (1992 figures).

In high growth areas like computers, tourism and biotechnology, the country just does not have trained manpower. This is not at all surprising, since the country does not value its people nor has made any efforts to upgrade the skills of the majority of the population. Those who graduate from the

## THE POWER SHORTAGE



prestigious IITs either do management courses and prefer to become salesmen for multinational companies or simply go abroad. In the field of computers, students are encouraged to do courses more as a fashion and the result is churning out of semi literates who are fit to do low level jobs of data entry. The few who get a better education are able to get good jobs or again, go abroad.

While prestigious institutes have failed to provide people to the country, a number of private institutes have opened which have cashed in on the craze for a degree. The level of skills acquired in such institutes is well below average.

All we have done is to pay lip service to the crucial area of education. The Human Resource Ministry is as good as not being there; it spends much of its time in working out impractical schemes or in distributing foreign scholarships to well connected people. The Labour Ministry tried to upgrade the 2,721 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in 1988 and hired a German consultant for the purpose. Six years later, the institutes are still not ready to conduct the new training. The Institute of Applied Manpower used to estimate India's manpower needs and how they could be met. The exercise had to be abandoned in the 80s, since the demand was changing faster than the time the institute took to complete its studies.

Other countries have, in the meantime, forged ahead. South Korea had a slow pace of growth in the 1960s and the

emphasis was on light industry. Forty per cent of the country lacked formal education. But the country invested in developing its people. Education was subsidized, and in-company training was made compulsory. The result is that today South Korea has a per capita income that is ten times that of India and its GDP has been almost double than ours.

India desperately needs to upgrade human capital so that its population does not appear to be a liability. This can only be done through better education and in-company training. But, this is not being done. With the result, our manpower must toil on in work that adds very little value. Perhaps something can be learnt from the South Korean experience, whose educational structure is rated 22nd in the world, whereas India's still ranks at the bottom, at 48th. Today, India has a per capita public expenditure on education of \$12, which is 1/25th of Korea's. It is no wonder that we are now importing technology from Korea.

The tragedy is that the policy makers of our country still refuse to do anything. Rather than invest in education, the new trend is to privatise it so that it goes out of the reach of a majority of the population. The failure to develop our human resources will result in slow growth. Foreign companies will prefer to bring in people from abroad, as they are presently doing. The World Competitiveness Report lists education and training as essential to develop competitiveness. It is a pity that India will continue to go down, given the collective wisdom of our bureaucrats and leaders.

### Biodiversity

One of the greatest threat that the country faces is in the field of biodiversity. Having enforced the GATT, developed countries are trying to corner the rights to use natural resources that are found in poor countries like India. Patents being granted on *neem* and turmeric (*haldi*) have recently been

reported. India has about 45,000 plant varieties and 75,000 animal species. With growing interest in 'alternative medicine' and the fact that the West has plundered its own biodiversity, it is now looking at poor countries to patent traditional forms of medicine.

There is danger today that the vast commercial potential of *ayurveda* is going to be cornered by the West through the system of legally enforceable patenting regime. The robbery of the natural resources, thus, continues unabated. The law allows the West to take resources of Third World countries and use it without as much as an acknowledgement—profits from an Ethiopian barley variety adapted to suit climatic conditions of the US may be worth over \$150 million every year, but the West does not compensate the Ethiopian farmers. Likewise, India stands in danger of losing out on its entire system of plant-based traditional medicine if nothing is done to stop it. It would be an ironical situation indeed if Indians are forced to buy those remedies from the West which their grandmothers always knew about!

A similar thing may be going on in forests. The West is looking at plant species in forests in Third World countries and came up with a Tropical Forests Action Plan. The plan was criticised by many countries saying that forestry could not be controlled by someone sitting in Washington. However, in these days of intellectual property rights, the West may try again to gain control over

*India can protect its natural resources by providing patent protection to plants. It must amend the Patents Act of 1970. Along with legislative steps, it must actively seek patents of its plants and seek royalty for its knowledge if used by the West. Use of knowledge is, after all, the very basis of patent protection.*

the forests of poor countries, including India.

India can protect its natural resources by providing patent protection to plants. It must amend the Patents Act of 1970. Along with legislative steps, it must actively seek patents of its plants and seek royalty for its knowledge if used by the West. Use of knowledge is, after all, the very basis of patent protection.

Yet, there are no indications that the government has actually woken up to this reality. The Fourth International Conference on Genetic Resources, held in Germany this year, debated on the issue of protecting the rights of farmers in conserving and protecting plant genetic resources. In this conference, India's representation was casual and not much attention was paid to it.

In the international arena, intellectual property protection is being blindly accorded to plant improvements and to entire crop species. Together with the TRIPs agreement in the GATT, it obliges all poor countries, including India, to protect the rights of commercial breeders and biotechnologists and their companies. Following this, almost all multinational seed companies have come to India. If the country's interests are not protected at this stage, we stand to lose the independence we have acquired in food production. This is indeed a serious outcome and has repercussions not only for the farmer community but for each and every person. Can we afford to let

our natural resources be taken away from right under our nose?

The design of the West will keep us in the circle of poverty forever. The government has to take urgent steps to protect the country's biodiversity. Will it do so, given the fact that most ministers are busy in their scams and hardly anyone has any time for serious thinking?

### Water resources



India's vast coastline offers huge riches of seafood. Traditionally, fishing villages have depended on fishing for their livelihood and it never seemed that there would not be any fish. While earlier the catch was never too large and the resources did not deplete, with better technology and many foreign ventures operating in the industry, the problem of overfishing has engulfed the Indian fisherman. True, India is not faced yet with the overfishing that has caused problems in the West. But, there is a constant increase in number of fishermen, mechanised vessels and deep sea fishing ships with the latest technology.

Protest marches from West Bengal to Gujarat have brought the problem of overfishing to the forefront and if

nothing is done, chances are that India will follow the West in depleting its fish resources. The director general of the Fisheries Survey of India has warned that "we are near the limit in exploiting coastal fisheries, and in some small pockets in Kerala and West Bengal, we may have exceeded it". In many areas, there is a conflict between traditional fishermen and deep sea trawlers, which has led the government to freeze the issue of new licenses for joint ventures with foreign firms. That, however, may not stop the overfishing already taking place.

Other ecological considerations have also been raised. Keeping in mind the pollution already taking place, the Supreme Court has directed that no farmlands or salt pans can be converted into commercial aqua-farms. The judgement covers Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The TN Gram Swaraj Movement is fighting to stop the conversion of vast tracts of rich agricultural lands into commercial prawn farms. In Orissa, a project to be set up on the Chilka lake by the Tatas has likewise been stalled.

With stock depletion taking place the world over, the developed countries are likely to eye our coastal region covetously. India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) could thus become the new hunting ground for the world. The world may also be looking at aquaculture projects in India to meet its need.

### Environmental concerns

One of the major debates all over the world is about development and environment. Which one should gain priority? We have ruined some of our natural reserves to the point of no return. Our forests have been stripped bare and the forest cover has declined considerably. As industry expands, it is pushing deeper and deeper for natural resources. In many places, the land and water sources have been destroyed by industrial pollution.

India's natural resources suffer a challenge from two sides: first, they should be exploited in such a way that inefficiencies and corruption are removed. Privatisation has to be followed, even if it means cutting down of employment in some sectors.

Second, and perhaps more important, is the challenge to exploit these resources sustainably. Usually, the construction of industrial projects and dams results in loss of habitat and traditional livelihood for lakhs of people. Should this development be followed? No natural resource policy can really work if the interests of the local people are ignored.

The Indian people have been let down on both accounts. Mismanagement of natural resources has stood in the way of economic progress; over exploitation makes poverty and destitution greater. There is, of course a balance which can be found. Will country's planners meet the challenge?

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# From Socialist to Consumer Society

*After four decades of trying to create a socialistic pattern of society, the country took an about turn, and is now trying to become a consumer society, with a vengeance. The reasons for doing so are strong: most other countries have overtaken it and become East Asian tigers but India is tied up with a heavy bureaucracy and a public sector which has failed to reach the commanding heights of the economy.*

*When, in 1991, the IMF imposed conditionalities on the loans which the country so badly wanted, the country had no option but to open its economy. Since then, the country is pursuing a decidedly capitalist path, courting foreign investors in an effort to globalise. But though liberalisation is being projected as the single largest achievement of the previous government, the effects of having a consumer society have been ignored.*

*Somewhere along the line, the Gandhian tradition of decentralised, small scale, austere and socially just development has been forgotten. Even the new government, which had criticised the new economic policies, has done a volte-face and is supporting the capitalistic policies now followed by the country. Which is ironic, because even Western countries are getting concerned with the social consequences of their own brand of capitalism.*

*This feature traces the history of the change in economic thinking in India and questions the logic of following a development strategy which may have suited the West, but has serious shortcomings in its ability to look after the majority of the population.*

**I**NDIA'S independence came with political and economic choices. The political choices were perhaps easy: shaking off a colonial rule, the country was not going to accept a totalitarian regime and democracy was the best choice. But economically, the choice was more difficult. On one side lay

the heady capitalism of the West, a society spurred by consumption and going to any extent to promote goods, which kept becoming bigger and better. There was, however, no room for the poor man in such a system. If you lacked the resources to help you consume, you did not deserve to be part of society, or even a human being.

On the other side was the controlled economy of the former Soviet Union, a welfare State which looked after the needs of the population. Individual freedom was curtailed, and though there were not as many goods as the capitalist West, it did not have the waste that went with uncontrolled consumption. All citizens were assured of a certain minimum standard of life.

Both systems were vulgar in their own ways. One placed consumption as the central activity of human beings while the other was brutal in suppressing human initiative. If one wasted resources in the pursuit of consumer choice, the other set up wasteful State-managed enterprises which no one was interested to run properly.

India chose a middle path. While it wanted to achieve a socialistic pattern of society, it did not want a system like the former Soviet Union. The result was a mixture of the two systems, where private capital was allowed in some sectors and the State-controlled others. Looking back, it may well have been an accident of history that a mixture of two extreme systems was chosen. The leaders simply lacked the courage of trying out alternate development and tried to make the best of both the worlds, which of course did not work.

The mixed economy system was followed for four decades. Gradually, a sense of alienation started growing. People ques-

tioned why our basic services like telephones and transport were so poorly organised when other countries had forged ahead. They also questioned the stated objectives of socialism when the former Soviet Union had collapsed and even China was going the capitalist way, if in a limited way. Questions also grew about social schemes when all that they had done was to contribute to increase in corruption and inefficiency.

## Divorcing Nehruvian economics

**T**HE younger generation wanted the wonderful goods that the West produced and questioned the closed economy which did not allow in those goods. The country not only lacked the things produced by the West, but it also had low economic growth. Whom had the system served?

The disillusionment also existed because other countries like Korea, Japan and those referred to as East Asian economic miracles had forged ahead. These countries did not have resources as large as India's, but had beat us in practically all fields.

India, on the other hand, was referred to as a 'sleeping giant', a country which had potential but could not realise it. In the world arena, it was not taken seriously. Its own people preferred to work in foreign countries rather than stay back. But no corrective steps were taken as no government wanted to change the system which gave immense powers to the bureaucrats and politicians. Following the British legacy of treating the country as a colony of the Raj, the government held all the powers, stifling private enterprise. If a company wanted to make more toothpaste than it did, for example, it had to obtain gov-



entment permission. The country was managed—and perhaps still is—by bureaucrats having no idea how businesses are run.

In spite of such severe controls, the country was able to develop its own goods and technologies in some areas. There were a few success stories. But in an effort to catch up with the lifestyles of the West, the country went on an import binge. This led to a severe balance of payments crisis in 1991 as all foreign exchange reserves of the country were depleted.

The government then approached the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for loans to help it tide over the crisis. As part of the loan package, conditionalities were imposed which included liberalisation of the economy, taking up a structural adjustment programme and allowing in foreign capital. For the second time in history, the country changed course, once again by accident rather than by design.

Even though the Congress has been claiming credit for opening the economy, it was actually forced down by the international funding agencies. But why should a funding agency be interested in reforming the economic system of a distant country? The answer perhaps lies in the fact that countries which had taken up structural adjustment programmes had become hopelessly dependent on the West, a kind of economic colonisation.

This is how it worked. Huge loans were given to poor countries to develop dams and roads. Foreign companies had to be allowed in, as part of the package. This gave the population wonderful consumption goods so it all appeared to be a good policy.

To repay the loans, the countries were encouraged to change their traditional crops to cash crops. The increase in supply of commodities pushed the prices of commodities down in international markets (which suited the Western countries) but the indebted countries discovered that they had to export more and more to repay the loans; in many cases they had to borrow more just to pay the interest. This resulted in rich nations taking over the resources of the poor countries, which had happened in Africa and Latin American countries. Recently, the rescue package given by the

## Odious debts

Economists all over the world are asking questions about the policies of the IMF. Several books have been written which show that the policy prescriptions laid down by them are faulty. In her book *Odious Debts*, Patricia Adams writes: "If ever there was an international 'villain', it surely must be the IMF. No international institution has been more condemned over the decades for being an enemy of the poor and subjugator of the Third World."

The book goes on to say that loans were given for questionable projects all over the Third World which destroyed the traditional livelihoods of millions of people. The IMF admitted that its miscalculations affected large groups of the urban poor in Chile, Dominican Republic and the Philippines. Currency devaluations were undertaken to boost imports but which led to hardships for the local populations. The story sounds similar and in India too the rupee has been devalued. From Rs 18 to a dollar, it is now Rs 35 in just five years.

Why then do responsible citizens in poor countries meekly toe the World Bank philosophy? The answer is provided in *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalisation* by Amit Bhaduri and Deepak Nayyar. They write that many civil servants in the Ministry of Finance who toe the World Bank line are rewarded with lucrative jobs by the international agencies. "The unwritten rule is to push the IMF-World Bank line and be rewarded at an appropriate time", say the authors. "It would seem that there is a revolving door between the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank or the IMF in Washington."

Perhaps that is why there is no change in economic thinking of the country no matter which government comes to power. The march towards becoming a consumer society is thus relentless. The question is: will our country be able to sustain it? Or will we become a hopelessly indebted nation, a storehouse of the world's wastes?

US for the Mexican economy has resulted in the oil resources of Mexico virtually being taken over by the US. It would not be wrong to say that the developed nations were trying to control the natural resources of the poor nations through loans.

There was the promise of increasing GDP growth. But the countries forgot that the poor did not survive by growth rates alone. In each of the poor countries a traditional economy existed which the poor could fall back upon. There were feelings of kinship and many families pursued occupations which was enough for survival but which were not counted in national income estimates.

For example, labour worked in the fields in India in return for food. In many places, agricultural wastes were taken by them for use as fuel. This was not counted in any economic indicators. The conversion to cash crops changed all that and the poor found that they had been further marginalised. The funding agencies ignored these non-economic factors.

## Importance of Non-economic factors

MODERN economic theory measures everything, but it has no way to measure non-measurable things. The growth rates may indeed be high, but how does the population live? Are the people living in health and are they happy? Economic theory has no answer to such questions. Thus, growth rates may increase and per capita income may go up but the figures may hide many things, including rising income disparities and growing alienation of the middle class and poor. Is development just high GDP growth rate?

The world has now realised that indeed it isn't. The UN continues to build indices that take into account non-measurable factors to measure a country's development. High growth rates in many countries have been accompanied by environmental degradation, teenage pregnancies, unemployment, crime and



despondency. Many of these have already reared their head in our country already.

Figures may also hide many social consequences. The Western system has produced excessive individualism, materialism, conspicuous consumption and social alienation. So, while economic indices may be satisfactory, we may be moving away from having an ideal society. With the emergence of the consumer society in India, individualism has accelerated here too. Community networks and joint family systems are disappearing. The quality of life continues to deteriorate which has become evident in criminalisation of politics and society.

There is growing alienation in our cities and many of the psychological diseases of the West have also come to India. Moreover, as the number of goods increase without increase in earnings of the majority of people, it has resulted in compromise of morality and acquiring wealth by illegal ways. The scandals which have rocked the nation are a manifestation of this decline.

### Alternative development

THE decline is usually defended on the ground that there is really no alternative. This is misleading. Long before the country had chosen its economic path, Mahatma Gandhi had given an idea of an alternate development. He held that development should be based on the Indian reality, on making the villages self-reliant.

Gandhi's view was an economic system that was closer to the country's culture and value systems. He knew that the consumer society could not work here since India had a large population. A system that did not take this into account could not serve the country well. On the other hand, people continue repeating that our population is a problem. What should our people do then? Commit suicide?

If we search for evidence of claims made by the government that the new economic policies have percolated down to the people living on the periphery of existence, we find that the consumer society benefits only the elite of the country. We must therefore look for ways by which the poor can be integrated into the develop-

ment process.

Though it is fashionable to deride all that happened during the decades of Nehruvian economics, the fact remains that the country made significant strides in agriculture, defence and space technology. These achievements are now in danger of being wiped out as there is increased emphasis on imported technologies. Combined with decrease in social spending, the country stands today on the threshold of destroying all it stood for.

Even if we do not subscribe to the idea of alternate development, perhaps we can redefine what development should mean in a country like ours. Should development mean the availability of canned beer, hamburgers, cold drinks, shirts and jeans? It seems more appropriate if development should mean assistance in setting up power plants and building of cheap services like mass transport systems. It should also mean creating of employment opportunities not only in cities, but in towns and villages. It should mean education for all and social justice.

The irony cannot be missed here that development means none of these things to the average Indian. In our acceptance of Western ideas, development is defined as using more Western products. Where will dependence on the West for consumer goods lead us?

A redefinition will show how wrong government policies have been. What about land reforms and reversal of migration to cities? If progress is redefined in these terms, we will discover the mistake of following the policies of the World Bank. There is unfortunately a lack of understanding of Gandhi and alternative development.

### Rising inequalities

THE consumer society has resulted in glaring inequalities. Today, just 385 richest individuals and families of the world hold more material assets than the entire poorer 45 per cent of humanity, amounting to 2.5 billion people. While world income has increased seven-fold over the last 50 years, real wages have declined in many countries—20 per cent in Latin America

and as much as 80 per cent in parts of Africa and the former Soviet Union, in the past decade alone. All over the world, a small percentage of people are gaining wealth and assets while the majority are sinking into increasing poverty and desperation.

In the US, just one per cent of the population holds 40 per cent of the national wealth. The highly paid corporate executives receive salaries which are 225 times of what the lowest wage employees get. In many countries including India, the middle class is being torn apart.

In the name of privatisation, a plundering of public wealth has taken place. Those in a position to benefit have cornered resources. At the same time, under pressure from the international funding agencies, governments have reduced their spending on education, health and social projects. In the name of liberalisation, barriers to economies are being broken down allowing large scale plundering of natural resources of host countries.

Though in the past people accepted the inequalities because of religious beliefs and their concept of fate, the relentless downward pressure will not be accepted in fatalist resignation. Inequalities have led to increased violence in many countries and crime in India too is increasing. When the rich flaunt their riches before a struggling population, social tensions are bound to result. In Brazil, Mexico, parts of US, Africa and other countries, these tensions have resulted in social unrest and killings.

Those who lost faith in communism and embraced capitalism as the alternative have come to regret the choice. With both systems under disrepute, people do not know which way to turn. Economist Lester Thurow sees the downward spiral as the slide of the Roman empire to the bottom of the Middle Ages. Medieval Europe lived in walled cities while the poor were consigned to the countryside. In the modern world, the rich live in high security enclaves while the poor have to make do with hutments with no civic amenities. Says Thurow, "If the democratic political process cannot reverse the trend of inequality, democracy itself will eventually be discredited."

Clearly, if the destructive economic policies are not checked, the inequalities will cause the collapse of the society we live in. But will our government be able to check these trends?

### Towards a consumer society

**G**OING by the experience of five years of reforms in our country, it does seem doubtful that inequalities can be checked by our government. In these years \$17 billion of foreign exchange has been approved. The country has foreign companies supplying cornflakes, cars, cellular phones and canned drinks. But it has not added an extra megawatt of power or built a kilometre of highway. Such projects are mired in controversy. Of the investment received, only \$4 billion has been put in the manufacturing sector. Most of it has been invested in the stock market. The non-priority sectors consisting of soft drinks, soap, fried chicken, jeans and whisky, have attracted large investments. Rather than invest in creating businesses, MNCs have chosen to acquire existing companies.

The automobiles sector has seen some large names and large investments. Of course none of this can be said to contribute to development or in any way helping the poor. Liberalisation has not meant anything for the Indians who sleep on the roadside, for children walking barefoot and the millions of people earning a daily wage, apart from giving them more things to look at and desire. The consumer society does not take into account all these Indians. Nor could it. It was looking only at consumer goods and perhaps giving dreams to the poor.

Those who defend the new consumer society say that there is danger of India going the way of Mexico or Brazil. They say that the consumer society does not destroy values of frugality and simplicity nor does it create inequalities. The consumer society does encourage consumption, but this has led to growth of per capita income. Improved availability of consumer goods has increased motivation and economic participation of the common man.

It is also said that market forces also drive economic activity to areas where labour is available cheaply and thus the

poor in the country also benefit by greater consumption. Economic studies have shown that income growth is the best way to reduce mass poverty. Any increase in consumption of any kind of good will lead to poverty reduction. Much of the growth in developed countries has taken place due to increase in availability of more goods in those economies. Will India's consumer society too result in helping its population?

This logic does not convince many people. The experience of the West shows that consumption may have contributed to rise in incomes, but inequalities are still high. But the greatest indictment of the new economic policy comes from countries which had taken up similar programmes but ended up in severe problems.

Mexico was among the first countries to receive the structural adjustment loans from the World Bank in 1979. Much of the same policies are now being implemented in India.

The Mexican experience casts doubt on the wisdom of the structural adjustment policies which may be called the 'IMF medicine'. The collapse of the system in 1982 and again in 1995 shows that the medicine does not work well. Policy makers are quick to say that there is no similarity between Mexico and India but the truth is that our economy is now open to the risks of international finance.

There is, in fact, a great deal of similarity between the two countries. There has been a neglect of infrastructure, skewed investment, sharp rise in prices and deterioration in the life of the poor. There is a blind faith in the free market economy and both claim that reforms are irreversible. However, there is no reason why investment priorities cannot be corrected at this stage.

Ironically, the consumer society is defended in India even though leaders of the West have started questioning their brand of capitalism. The consumer society has plundered the environment, to the extent that the entire globe is today threatened by pollution and ozone depletion.

The consumer society can be tempered by increase of public spending on health, education, social security and employment generation. Debt must be reduced and the *mantra* of foreign investment must be aban-

doned. But will the policy makers be willing? Most, including the Finance Minister, are so beguiled by neo-liberal policies that they often distort facts to show that liberalisation is working. The manipulation of economic indicators (*Competition Master* May 96) is a way of showing that the economic policies are working when they actually may not be. How long can the country live in self-delusion?

### Focus on the Poor

**T**HE major task of the new government in the consumer society will be to ensure the basic needs and an improvement in the living standard of the poor. Today, while the rich have entered the satellite era, the masses go to bed hungry by candlelight. The state of the nation can be aptly described as an island of imported cars in an ocean of bullock carts. While imported whisky is available for the rich, many people do not have access to clean drinking water.

The problem of poverty is the other side of the acquisitive mode of living. The consumer society usurps the resources of the poor. The past five years have seen the poor being totally ignored. Further, privatising of education has caused fee hikes in educational institutions, preventing people from acquiring it and move ahead in life. There is almost a conspiracy about cornering all the resources available in the country by the rich. Is this sustainable development?

The society which we are heading towards consists of well protected luxury flats of the rich surrounded by hutments.

And what of the people living in poverty? How will they stop the temptation arising out of seeing the wonderful things which they cannot buy? The only outlet for their emotions will be to steal whenever they get the chance. This is happening in much of the capitalist world: in New York, USA, you can be killed for your shoes if they are expensive enough.

The question is: do we want that kind of society? Or should we look for alternative development models? Given the current thinking of our country, it seems unlikely that we will follow the latter. Welcome to the capitalist, consumer society!

## ARTICLE

# The Changing Face of Public Sector

*Public Sector in India largely represents the philosophy of mixed economy in the country. Adopted as the most important features of economic policy, the concept of mixed economy still holds good but its character has changed with times. Mixed economy of 50s laid heavy reliance on Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as instruments of socialist pattern, by ensuring State ownership of basic, heavy, key and strategic industries. While in some of these sectors entry of the private sector was barred, whereas in case of others, the State had to intervene as private investment was not forthcoming due to a variety of reasons. The second Five-Year Plan, adopted the philosophy of Mahalanobis model, relying heavily on industrialisation for rapid development and where the industries were largely owned by the State*

## High Expectations

**S**UCCESSIVE Industrial Policy resolutions, till recently, continued to protect and pamper the PSUs. The reasons were mainly economic. With the overall objective of achieving high industrial growth rate, resulting in rapid economic development in the country, there were many other objectives assigned to the PSUs. First of all the industrial units requiring heavy investment, known low rate of return and relatively longer gestation period, were assigned to the PSUs with the view to act as a catalyst of private investment in such sectors in future, and also to achieve balanced growth and import substitution. Export promotion and import substitution was another important objective, aimed at achieving self-sufficiency on the one hand and conserving the precious foreign exchange on the other.

Development of infrastructure was

expected to be achieved expeditiously through the PSUs. While some of the PSUs were directly involved in providing and developing the economic and other infrastructure, most of the other PSUs had development of infrastructure as one of subsidiary objectives. Development of local roads, sanitation, educational institutions, electricity, water supply etc. in the areas where big PSUs were set up, was expected by one and all. Employment generation in the local area was expected, and this expectation was largely met also. At present about 23 lakh persons are on the rolls of Central PSUs and additionally, more than half this number is employed by the State PSUs

Restriction of monopolies and equitable distribution of economic resources has been one of the core affirmations of socio-economy policy in the country. PSUs were adopted as one of the policy measures to achieve these objectives, along with other legislative and administrative framework. These undertakings were also expected to provide a reasonable rate of return on investment and thus create surpluses for funding future plans. Development of backward regions was a consequential expectation. While most of these expectations were explicitly stated as objectives of public sector, a few others were expected to be achieved in the long run.

During the initial few years the progress of the PSUs was considered satisfactory. During this period, the State governments also emulated the Centre and for a few services and industries like agro-industries, transportation, welfare of weaker sections, power generation and distribution, civil supplies, small-scale and cottage

industries, industrial financing, tourism development etc, set up public sector enterprises in the States. Some of the States also ventured into the fields of manufacturing, agro-processing, electronic development etc. in a big way. But, gradually the realisation started coming that the performance of public sector was much below expectations and required some reforms and removal of bottlenecks.

## Performance

**A**S per the figures in the Eighth Plan document, on 31.3.91 there were 246 Central PSUs with a total investment of Rs 1,13,234 crore. Out of these 236 were operational enterprises with an employed capital of Rs 1,01,702 crore. Out of these 131 earned a net profit of Rs 5731 crore, while 109 suffered a net loss of Rs 3064 crore. As per the latest estimates, the rate of returns on the Capital employed in the public sector is around 1.9 per cent, which is likely to fall to 1.8 per cent during the current financial year.

However, while assessing the economic performance of PSUs the social objectives and responsibility entrusted to them also have to be viewed objectively. The public sector took over the reins of industrial sector when the Indian economy was badly shattered by the aftermath of partition, the private capital was shy in non-profitable and developmental sector and the existing linkages and infrastructure was almost non-existent. Despite the inherent inefficiencies, the contribution of PSUs in building the economic and other infrastructure, employment generation, balanced regional growth and encouraging the private sector to come forward

cannot be ignored.

But, the social contribution of the PSUs cannot overweigh their economic failures. Hence, the government initiated a process of reforms to revamp the Public Sector. It was realised that the lack of autonomy was one of the main reasons for poor performance of the PSUs having good economic potential. To start with, the government introduced a system called "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU). The MoU system aimed at achieving the twin objective of autonomy to the PSU management and their good economic performance. The PSU concerned is expected to enter into an MoU with the government, in which obligations and commitments of both the parties are laid out. As per Economic Survey 1995-96, 99 PSEs signed the MoUs for the year 1994-95 and for the current financial year 108 MoUs are pending for approval and signatures.

Another important policy measure aimed at refurbishing the PSUs during the recent era of reforms has been the disinvestment of public equity out of selected enterprises. The aim was to gradually introduce the private control of the units to enhance the accountability and professionalism of management. It was decided to disinvest up to 49 per cent of the government share capital. Various rounds of disinvestment have taken place and upto the end of 1995-96, a total amount of around Rs 10,500 crore has been disinvested. Maximum disinvestment of 48.20 per cent has been achieved in respect of Madras Refineries. Disinvestment, so far, has not been able to achieve the objectives. The method of disinvestment adopted by the government has been criticised, as it only aims at speedy disinvestment and enhancing the revenue of the government. Remaining objectives of disinvestment have, by and large, remained unfulfilled.

In addition, several other measures to reform the public sector have been taken. A voluntary retirement scheme was introduced under which about 75,000 workers had opted for voluntary retirement. With a view to protect the interests of the workers and provide a social safety net for them a National Renewal Fund (NRF) was set up

in February 1992, to assist them in re-training, redeployment and counselling. About Rs 800 crore have already been released out of NRF during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95. Moreover, the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA) were extended to the PSUs in December, 1992. As a result sick PSUs can also be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Upto the end of 1995, 59 Central and 79 State (total of 138) PSU cases were referred to the BIFR, out of which revival schemes have already been sanctioned for 29 units.

### Impending Reforms

THE process of reforms in the PSUs appears to be irreversible. Immediately after taking over, the United Front government issued a warning of the sorts to the entire public sector. While hinting that more reforms are in the offing, the management of these enterprises was also asked to be more professional and decisive to ensure profitability. In August 1996, the government decided to set up a disinvestment commission to advise the government on disinvestment of government equity. The five-member Commission will identify the individual PSUs and the quantum of government equity for disinvestment, by advising the mode, price and time of disinvestment. The proceeds of disinvestment are to be rechannelled to the NRF and priority is to be given to the small investors.

The government is also toying with the idea of complete disinvestment in government hotels, while reducing the government equity to just 26 per cent in non-strategic and non-core areas. It is also expected that only one PSU's equity will be offered for disinvestment at one time. The process of fresh disinvestment as per revised plan is expected to begin from September 1996. In addition, efforts are afoot to identify potential global giants among the PSUs, both in core and strategic and non-core and non-strategic sectors. The government is seriously contemplating retaining majority holding in such PSUs.

These ensuing reforms are expected

to initiate the process of reforms afresh. With the participation of general public for small number of PSU shares and proposed limit on the shares to be bought by institutional buyers, the true objective of privatisation is expected to be achieved. The recent efforts of the new UF government to streamline the functioning of PSUs and pursue the ongoing reforms vigorously would certainly result in transforming the concept of public sector in India. Disinvestment of equity beyond 50 per cent in non-core and non-strategic sectors would revolutionise the thinking on public sector in India, notwithstanding the grumbings and minor opposition from the leftist parties within the UF.

With the growth rate of GDP at 7 per cent during 1995-96, the mood of the policy-makers is up-beat. The outstanding growth in the GDP has mainly been assisted by the booming industrial sector which registered a record growth rate of 12.4 per cent. While the contribution of public sector has been negligible till recently, the proposed revamping is expected to result in pushing up the industrial growth rate further in the post-PSU reforms era.

### Conclusion

IT has been widely recognised that State Intervention in every economy is a must. However, varying with the level of economic development, the degree of such an intervention may differ. Even advanced western world does exercise some control on its industries. State control over the strategic and core sector units cannot be slackened beyond a particular limit. The ongoing process of reforms of the public sector are, thus, a welcome step in the right direction, aiming at achieving higher return, while at the same time retaining the control of the State wherever required. The process of reforms would not only result in changing the face of public sector beyond recognition, but is also likely to give the required qualitative facelift to this important sector of the economy. Unflinching political will and flawless execution would, of course, remain the preconditions for the success of these reforms.

## DEBATE; DISCUSSION

# The Limits of Judicial Activism

*"Where laws end, tyranny begins", said William Pitt in 1770. In India, the courts have ensured that the rule of the law does prevail inspite of assaults on it by none other than our own elected representatives. In doing so, the courts may sometimes overstep their limits. Today, a feeling has gained ground that judges are interfering in areas where they should not. Several MPs have protested that judicial activism had gone too far and that judges were acting like "super government or a super Parliament". Indeed, certain statements made by judges do seem to cross the limits of what may be called legal decorum; the case of Rajan Pillai comes readily to mind where medical aid was denied and certain unsavoury comments made about the man.*

*On the other hand, there is a growing feeling that public life has reached the pits. There may be no politician today who has his hands clean, going by the revelations that hit the headlines at regular intervals. Even the former Prime Minister has his name embroiled in controversies. In such a situation, is the judiciary to blame if it takes on the task of simply making the law take its own course?*

*In our discussion for this month, we look at both sides of the issue. Opinion seems to be equally divided but perhaps a more balanced approach is needed in dealing with this sensitive topic of 'judicial overactivism'.*

**Mr A** Before we start the discussion, let me put the term in proper perspective. The term 'judicial activism' has begun to be used quite recently. With the executive weak and corrupt, the Supreme Court took it upon itself to put right several things on which there was no action. These ranged from directions to the civic authorities for disposing

garbage on Delhi roads, to asking the government to have its bungalows vacated from those who occupied it, even though they had long ceased to hold public office. But perhaps the most famous example of judicial activism was in the hawala case, when the Court directed the CBI to complete an enquiry and report to it on the progress on a daily basis. It was felt that the Court was exceeding its functions—after all, how many departments could the Court control, given the fact that few of them actually did the jobs they were supposed to? Moreover, in certain cases the judges were passing wide, uncalled for remarks, which could well have been avoided. They were issuing summons to famous politicians for which there was no real need. It thus started appearing that the judiciary was exceeding its limits. Thus the term 'judicial overactivism' was born. Personally, I am not in favour of judiciary taking over day to day governance. What is the government then for? I would rather have it doing the functions it is supposed to. The Courts are for dispensing justice and certainly not for governance.

**Mr B** I agree with you that the Courts are for dispensing justice and that it is the government that should actually do its job. But what if the government does not do what it is supposed to? Who or what is going to look after the interests of the common man? Unfortunately, the situation today is that the executive is very weak. Practically every politician is corrupt and the rot has spread to the bureaucracy too. In such a situation, the com-

mon man finds that he is at the receiving end. In such a situation, the judiciary has come to the rescue. Frankly, I don't think that judicial activism or overactivism are proper terms at all. The judiciary is just doing what should be done by the people in the government. If they don't do what they are supposed to, someone else will take over, by default.

**Mr C** It is true that the executive has surrendered its powers to the judiciary, out of its own weaknesses. But the objection is not about courts taking action to help the common man but their going overboard in their judgements. For example, in the Rajan Pillai case, the judge made some cruel, personal remarks against the industrialist and even denied medical aid, leading to his death. Is this judicial activism? Then again, a judge of the Allahabad High Court issued summons to the Prime Minister to appear before it on a petition challenging his appointment. Surely, there was no need for the PM's personal appearance in this case. But it seems that the judges are enjoying the publicity that comes out of sensational cases. It is their going overboard that is termed as 'judicial overactivism', and which is objectionable.

**Mr D** You forget that we live in extraordinary circumstances where practically every leader is corrupt and his bureaucrat secretary is a conduit for bribes. Even the names of the former Prime Minister and his son are appearing prominently in a number of scandals. Who are we to trust anymore? In

these circumstances, I don't think there is any harm in overactivism by the judiciary. Extraordinary situations call for extraordinary solutions. I agree that the judges' comments are unnecessarily harsh and may have been inexcusable in the case of Rajan Pillai, but no amount of harshness is enough for a politician who has betrayed public trust to amass wealth of his own. Perhaps the harsh comments and the summons issued by them will act as a warning to other leaders and prevent corruption. Corruption is, after all, the single most important issue that faces the country today. I support the judges and do not find it objectionable if they go overboard once in a while.

**Mr E** Your anger is justified but then how can you justify summons issued to famous people on frivolous complaints? Issuing summons to the PM have already been mentioned. Surely a petition about his appointment can be heard without his being present. In criminal cases, yes, the person must be summoned, but certainly not in civil cases. Similarly, people like Mr K.P.S. Gill are being called in cases where personal appearance is not necessary. I agree that the summons may be issued by judges with an eye on publicity. But what is the future of this overactivism? The judges will be involved in activities like having the garbage cleaned and taking day to day decisions. We may be heading towards 'judocracy', where judges are assuming the role of rulers. Is this a desirable situation, especially when thousands of undertrials languish in jail and lakhs of cases are pending in courts all over India? Who will give them justice if the judges are busy with other things? We can say goodbye to justice and the courts will assume the status of the State secretariate. I am sure that we do not want such a situation. At the same time, I would not want that judges turn a blind eye to the evils of society. I would like to suggest that there should be judicial activism tempered by common sense. The judiciary has to work with the executive. Usurping the powers of the executive can be

justified today, but what of the future? If the judiciary really starts interfering in all daily decisions, the future will be very grim. It might lead to dictatorship. I therefore think that judicial overactivism is not a very good thing and it has serious repercussions about the future of the country.

**Mr A** I think that the remarks of judges that we find objectionable should not be taken at face value. What they reflect is the anger of the society against those whom it placed its trust on. Any person with even a little love for his country would have reacted in this way. I think the judges cannot be blamed. But I still feel that day to day governance should not be left to courts. They should maintain their distance and maintain their position in which they can judge the executive if something goes wrong. Now, if the CBI still does not take action in spite of the court making it responsible, who can we turn to? In fact, the CBI is dragging its feet in the hawala case where only some selective charge sheets have been filed. Should we blame the Supreme Court for this inaction? It would have been better if the court maintained its distance and kept pressurising the government to take action in the case. The present situation suits no one else but the leaders who have been involved. So judicial activism is not the solution to all that plagues our society.

**Mr B** I agree with you that the situation has become extraordinary. It is amazing that the new CBI director should go to the former PM for "guidance", knowing well that cases are pending against him. The court was right in reprimanding him. In a situation where the CBI is willing to be subordinated by the accused politicians, which agency will see that the CBI merely does its job? It goes to the credit of the judiciary that they have taken it up. To a certain extent, the judiciary is performing its constitutional role. When the government is weak, it gives up its constitutional obligations. We really cannot blame the judges if they take over.

**Mr E** While it may be accepted that the judiciary is doing a role that is necessary in the Indian condition, what is objectionable is the sweeping statements made by some of the judges in discharging their duties. Judicial activism does help the common man in the sense that government agencies start to show results. What the courts are ensuring is that they merely do their job. If judicial activism is to be curbed, then the elected representatives must be strong and do what they are supposed to do. Today, we are grateful that someone is taking interest in the affairs of the country. But for the judiciary, we would have become a banana republic, where corruption is never punished.

**Mr C** I think we have reached a consensus that judicial activism is not a bad thing in the present circumstances. I am sure that the common man appreciates it too. But the judiciary must do an introspection about its future role. There is also a real danger that the courts may become all powerful. Moreover, to whom will the judges be accountable? The problem of corruption within the courts cannot be ruled out—some judges have already come under a cloud due to this. In cases involving celebrities, judges have to be careful that media attention does not influence what they say. Secondly, there must be some restraint in cases involving national leaders. There is no doubt that if corruption is the issue, they should be summoned and treated like any accused. But in frivolous complaints such as the one challenging election of the Prime Minister, there is no need to show undue heroism. The judges must be practical when such complaints are received. Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that judicial activism has served an important role now that we are seeing the collective depravity of the ruling class. But can it or should it continue? For that an introspection is required and the leaders have to really live morally to avoid their powers being usurped by the courts. Is that too much to ask?



# MBA: What Companies look for

*In our last issue, we described the requirements of the MBA course. This time, we answer the question what companies look for in MBAs. Clearly, if a company pays high salaries, it wants certain qualities in the people it hires.*

*In this part, we go beyond the institutes and look at corporate life and what a student can do to acquire skills required of him. What are the expectations of the company? If we know what is expected, we can prepare for the corporate life and cope with it better. Of course the Competition Master is responsive to your needs and students can send in their questions to our regular feature, Question Box, if there are any more doubts.*

One of the frequent questions that an MBA is likely to face during and after the course is, why should a company pay him, say, Rs 10,000 per month when it can get an equally smart graduate for half or maybe one-third of the salary?

When management graduates are faced with this question they reply with half-baked answers. Companies, they say, should pay them for their degree or education or skills. But if they are questioned further about which special skills they have that a graduate has not, the answers get fuzzier: they are better at selling, they have more confidence or they can make better decisions. This is, of course, just not true. No company will pay double the salary to a better salesman or a person who has more confidence, and certainly not for the joy of hiring a person with an MBA degree. The reason behind high salaries has to do with the contribution a person might make in a company in terms of better strategic thinking, systems or procedures. Moreover, he must have honesty and commitment.

## Skills to acquire

When a company hires a management trainee and makes a high investment in him in terms of salaries and training, what the company looks for is a person who may be given an independent charge for a branch operation or a product. Yet, many MBAs fail to make it big and languish in junior or middle management levels, showing that neither the MBA stamp nor the confidence was enough for them to make it big. The loss of a dream may be attributed to luck, but more to lack of personal skills. Which are these skills?

To be a good manager, one must understand what management really is. One of the simplest definition is that it is the process of getting things done through other people. So a manager must be able to manage people. While this may sound important, the flip side is that one must be responsible for the

actions of others. If another person does not do his job, very often a manager may find his head on the chopping block, even if he is not to blame! The company, however, will accept no excuse since such a situation means that a person is a bad manager. Do you think it is unfair? Chances are that nobody wants to hear your side of the story.

Managers must really have a wide range of skills. Four skills which are essential are: planning, organising, influencing and controlling. The process of determining in advance what should be accomplished and how it is to be realised is *planning*. It provides clear guidelines for workers and managers. Once the plans are made, they must be executed through *organising*, which describes formal relationships among people. The process of determining and affecting behaviour of others is *influencing*. Creating an environment where people want to work and put in their best is *motivating*. Commitment is also brought about by *leadership*. Finally, the process of comparing performance with standards and taking corrective action is called *controlling*.

A manager must be a natural leader, to be able to inspire confidence among his subordinates. Apart from all this, a manager must be committed to *excellence*. This is reflected in all acts, big or small. A good manager, for instance, cannot be a sloppy fellow with a three day old beard. Nor will such a person inspire any confidence in others.

Managers should also have *conceptual skills*, the ability to comprehend abstract or general ideas and apply them to specific situations. The most successful organisations are those which have the "big picture" clearly in focus. *Technical skills* are required too, which involve using specific knowledge, methods and techniques in performing work. Training and education can help develop these skills and this is a continuous process. Above all, managers should have *human skills* which help them to understand, motivate and get along with people.

Having understood the skills, one can use the educational process to acquire them. MBAs from good institutes are given training in these areas. The MBA degree is actually a transition period when a person should acquire those qualities which are going to be useful in the corporate sector. Treating the MBA course like an undergraduate course is unlikely to develop these capabilities.

## Welcome to the corporate world!

The MBA degree will help you at the entry level, at which a person will get a better start than a non-MBA. After that, however, it depends on how he is able to prove himself. Many MBAs



never rise beyond the middle level because they cannot meet targets and use excuses instead. Unfortunately, our culture encourages a person to take it easy about schedules and commitments. The corporate world, especially if it is going to pay a high salary, will not accept a *chalta hai* attitude from its employees.

Often, students get lured by the high salaries of an MBA and opt for the career without looking at the other side of the coin, or the tag that comes with the high salaries. While there is no denying that this career offers some of the best salaries, it is important to understand the risks associated with it. There is a saying, "There is no such thing as a free lunch", and it applies to this as well.

For one thing, managerial jobs are highly result-oriented. As salaries have risen, so have the risks. If a person is not able to meet targets he will be sidelined or even asked to leave the company. With the entry of foreign companies, along with high salaries, the culture of 'hire and fire' is also slowly finding its way into the Indian corporate world. Whereas earlier, a company could retain its low performers along with the high fliers, it is no longer feasible to do so.

This is the inevitable result of increase in salaries, which increases the risk of the business. Just as the career offers a high degree of freedom and mobility to a person, it offers the same amount of freedom to companies. Students who look at high salaries think that it is a comfortable life but the risks and tensions are sometimes unbearable. Many people are unable to cope with these and drop out; sometimes serious psychological disorders result. An aspirant is well advised to assess these before opting for this career. It may, however, be mentioned that high performance is required in the high profile and high paying companies but if a person reconciles to a lower salary, he can work in the public sector where neither a high performance is required nor are any results expected from him. The rewards are also medium but job security is very high. Ultimately, therefore, one has to make a choice and opt for the kind of job suited to one's personality.

The corporate sector also demands high mobility and level of commitment. Most jobs demand a 24 hour involvement. Travel at short notice may be required as also social commitments related to the job. A manager thus has to possess a multi-dimensional personality.

### Top vs medium companies

One of the things which the MBA lacks is loyalty. Job switching, whether due to better prospects or to frustration, is common. The business school usually raises expectations of students and they begin to think that they will be required to make corporate strategy the moment they are out of the institute. This is obviously a wrong notion and even the best of management graduates require training before they can be given independent charge. Due to the very high expectations, leaders of industry have begun to feel that though management graduates come with high ambitions, they lack loyalty.

Moreover, some managers feel that the top management in-

stitutes are not tuned to the Indian culture or management. Some companies have in fact begun to think about the suitability of hiring MBAs. In a discussion on management graduates held in 1994, Anil Ambani mentioned that the "curriculum at the business schools does not reflect real world conditions". Philips India chairman D.N. Ghosh mentioned that his company does not take MBAs since they were not prepared to slog at the shopfloor. Certain companies have come to prefer graduates from second rung institutes for this reason.

Strictly speaking however, it is hard to generalise about corporate preferences. Some companies prefer graduates of top institutes only while others go to second rung institutes. As a general rule, one should not go below the second rung institutes as the corporate sector does not take them seriously whether they have AICTE approval or not.

There is also a thinking in industry that management schools should take in only those students who have prior work experience. "A lot of what is taught in an MBA school cannot make any sense if there has been no exposure to a working environment", says Ambani. "The critical thing for our schools to do is to take people who have work experience." Though some institutes say that work experience is desirable, in most others fresh college graduates are taken.

### Scaling down ambitions

The MBA aspirant must do an internal assessment of his strengths and whether he will fit into a high profile and demanding career of management. Does it match one's personal interests and abilities? The self-evaluation procedure developed by Benjamin Franklin can be adopted, which helps people become aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Strengths can be used to full advantage while weaknesses can be overcome.

To make a strength/weakness balance sheet, one lists down one's perceived qualities. Draw a line in the middle of the page and record the strengths on the left and weaknesses on the right side. This exercise is difficult and several attempts may be needed before a good balance sheet emerges. List all the skills that a manager must have and match the qualities with those mentioned. This process will help you decide about a career in management.

Another thing that is helpful is a likes and dislikes survey. If you cannot live in a particular area or place, list it down. Do you like to travel? If you don't, certain options may be closed since they require travelling to company branches or offices. An honest assessment of likes and dislikes helps in a better understanding of oneself and will assess whether you will be happy being a manager. Talking to professionals also helps.

Finally, it must be said that being a manager implies continuous self-development and learning. The education is not limited to the two years of MBA. The jobs are high pressure, but the rewards are equally high. At the same time, a number of other careers have also become available in related fields such as sales and advertising. It would be helpful to look at all the options and make a decision rather than follow the crowd of people appearing for the admission tests to prestigious institutes.

# ADMISSION ALERT

## The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

*This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.*

### Communications

**PG Programme in Communications:** (2 years, residential). Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline. Written test: CAT on December 8, 1996. Last date: November 10, 1996. Apply to: The Admissions Office, Mudra Institute of Communications, Shela, Ahmedabad - 380 058 with a DD of Rs 550 drawn in favour of "Mudra Foundation for Communications Research and Education", and an application for CAT (see management section).

### Computers

**Bachelor/PG Diploma in Computer Applications:** (3 years/1-year). Eligibility: class 12 with maths/commerce for Bachelor and Graduate for PG Diploma. Written test: October 6, 1996. Last date: September 30, 1996. Apply to: Buddha Institute of Technology, A15, Paryavaran Complex, South of Saket, New Delhi - 110 030 with a DD of Rs 60 payable to "Buddha Institute of Technology".

### Defence

**National Defence Academy (NDA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS):** Exams have been rescheduled. New dates are: NDA on October 27, 1996 and CDS on December 8, 1996.

### Management

**1. PG Diploma in Management/Personnel Management:** (2-year, full time, 3-year, evening). Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: January 5, 1997. Last date: November 15, 1996. Apply to: Admissions Co-ordinator, XLRI, CH Area (E), Jamshedpur - 831 001 with a DD of Rs 500 in favour of "XLRI Jamshedpur".

**2. Common Admission Test (CAT) for Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs):** To be held on December 8, 1996. Eligibility: Graduation in any subject. CAT Bulletin available at State Bank of India branches on payment of Rs 600. Also available from Senior Administrative Officer, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Diamond Harbour Road, Joka, 24 Parganas (South) - 743 512 with a DD of Rs 650 favouring "Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta". Last date for receiving applications: October 14, 1996.

**3. PG Diploma in Management:** (2-year, full time). Eligibility: Graduation with minimum 50% marks. Written test: CAT on December 8, 1996. Apply to: Administrative Office, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar - 751 013 with a DD of Rs 450 drawn in favour of "Xavier

Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar".

**4. PG Programme in Rural Management:** (2-year, residential). Eligibility: Graduates with minimum 50% marks and 55% in their school. Written test: December 15, 1996. Last date: October 31, 1996. Apply to: Admissions Co-ordinator, Institute of Rural Management, Post Box No 60, Anand - 388 001 (Gujarat) with an addressed envelope with Rs 6 stamps.

**5. MBA:** (2 years, for women only). Written test: not specified. Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Last date: September 21, 1996. Apply to: The Secretary, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan - 304 022 with a DD of Rs 300.

**6. Diploma in Business Management/Entrepreneurship (3 years):** Last date: September 15, 1996. Apply to: Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship and Management, 13 Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 003 with a DD of Rs 175.

**7. PG Programme in Planning and Management:** (2-year, full time). Written test: not specified. Last date: October 12, 1996. Apply to: Indian Institute of Planning and Management, 9 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 with a MO of Rs 300.

**8. BBM:** (3 years). Eligibility: Minimum 50% marks in class 12. Written test: September 29, 1996. Last date: September 25, 1996. Apply to: Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Technology and Science, Dehradun - 248 001 with a DD of Rs 400.

**9. PG Diploma in Business Management:** (2 years full time, 3 years part time). Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Written test: MAT on December 1, 1996. Last date: October 30, 1996. Apply to: Institute of Productivity and Management, Resource House, Pocket G Pallavpuram, Meerut with a DD of Rs 500 and an application to AIMA for MAT.

### MBA From Abroad

**Master of Business Management (2 years from July 97), Master in Management (1 year):** Apply to: The Director of Admissions, Asian Institute of Management, Joseph R. McMiking Campus, 123 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, MCPO Box 2095, 1260 Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

### Social Work

**M.A./PG Diploma in Social Work:** (2 years/1-year). Eligibility: Graduation. Last date: September 15, 1996. Apply to: Department of Social Work, Lucknow University, Lucknow, with a DD of Rs 200 for M.A. and Rs 100 for Diploma.

## PARAGRAPH-WRITING

# Model Paragraphs

**"A truth that's told with bad intent beats all the lies that you can invent."**

*William Blake*

In everyday life, behind each action there is always the shadow of intention that hovers and betrays our real face. Just as an intelligent enemy is preferable to a foolish friend, similarly a plain lie is better than truth told with bad intention. Truth, though bitter, is not baneful if conveyed with the intention of removing the cobweb of lies, half-truths and deceptions that we weave around us. Truth without malice can vanquish all the lies that we may invent to throw dust into the eyes of others. But, if truth carries the garb of evil impulse turned into inimical intention, its face will become more ugly than all the lies, both black and white, that we conceive from time to time to serve our selfish ends. Truth is one of such beauties that needs no make-up or ill-intent to harm others. If our intention is to hit our opponent the hardest, the best course is not to distort truth to serve our evil design but to make use of other means, more malignant and mean, both in sum and substance. A man is known by the quality of his intentions much more than by the impact of his actions.

**"Wisdom, like happiness, is like the Swedish sunset which is there all the time."**

*Mark Twain*

For the survival of human race through the most traumatic and tragic times, the element of wisdom has always played a pivotal role. Just as happiness invigorates human emotions and spreads sunshine both in and outside our daily experience, in the same vein wisdom

spreads hope and knowledge when the dark clouds of ignorance and ill-will blind our vision and blur our mental faculties. Only the fools believe in the dictum "where ignorance is a bliss, it is folly to be wise". There is no real joy in being ignorant or inimical towards the creative and constructive forces that enable us to fight against the evils that try to thwart our march towards a better world. Those who keep their eyes closed, never see the rainbows nor do they come across the splendour of life that wisdom brings about in every walk and arena of human endeavour. Wisdom like the Swedish sunset is omnipresent. It has to be propitiated with hard work and sincerity.

**"A little sincerity is a dangerous thing; and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal."**

*Oscar Wilde*

A little of anything positive may pass unnoticed and unappreciated but an excess of the same may render the donor a prey to all sorts of tricks and taunts. Just as a little knowledge is a dangerous thing to live with, similarly too much of it at the cost of worldly obligations. A little sincerity may be of no use to whom it is shown, just as sporadic charity helps neither the one who gives nor the one who receives. Where people have their own axe to grind and vested interests to watch, it is highly unworldly to deal with the people with miserly sincerity and then wait for some miraculous results. When people are used to excessive display of emotions, passions and possessions and where human bonds are measured on the scale of success, a drop of sincerity may prove as ineffective as a drop of

water on a sand dune. If out of conviction and compassion, one were to indulge in too much of sincerity, the crooks would not bat an eyelid to rob the sincere person of all his goodness in all forms. The noble person would rue the day he became over-generous and thus fell an easy victim to the dubious designs of the world at large.

**"A poet looks at the world as a man looks at a woman."**

*Wallace Stevens*

There is no denying the fact that a poet is essentially a human being. On the contrary, every human being is not necessarily a poet. If a poet looks at the world, for inspiration and ignition of his ideas and imagination, he does so in his own unique style and subtlety. For him the world at large represents a canvas of colours and contours, beauty and bliss. Away from the world, he cannot express the multi-faceted faces of time and seasons, land-scapes and clouds, daily contacts with other fellows, in as cogent and creative a manner as he does when he develops a liking for the objects around. His infatuation with the world is as strong and serious as a man's first love for a woman when he looks at her and feels excited beyond words. The urge to look at a woman as an object of emotional fulfilment is as real with a man as a poet's admiration for the flora and fauna, streams and rivers, birds and rodents and a countless other objects of nature, that fuel his fancy and coax him to encompass the big and the bizarre into a few words and make his personal experience into universal exultation. A poet's eyes search the best that prevails around and thus he is the one who can see into the 'life of things'.

## CAREER

# Careers after Senior Secondary/ Matriculation Education

After completing senior secondary education students often find themselves at the cross roads. Most of the school leavers find themselves devoid of adequate information and, more often than not, land up in a career for which they have no aptitude and repent throughout their life for having made a wrong choice. In many cases the parents or the guardians are also not fully conversant with the opportunities available after schooling. This series of two articles aims at enumerating various opportunities which are available to the students after 10+2.

### UPSC Competitions

There are two competitive examinations conducted every year by the 'Union Public Service Commission' (UPSC) for which minimum educational qualification is 10+2 pass or equivalent examination. First examination is Special Class Railway Apprenticeship Examination which is conducted once every year by the UPSC. The candidates in the age group of 16 to 20 years on 1st January of the year of examination are eligible. All candidates with 12th class or equivalent with 1st division (any subjects) are eligible; candidates having second division with Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry as one of the subjects are also eligible to compete. The examination is held every year generally in the month of July and every candidate is tested in seven subjects including English, Mathematics (2 papers), Physics, Chemistry, General Knowledge and Psychological Test.

Second important competitive examination conducted every year by the UPSC is the National Defence Academy Examination. This examination is generally conducted twice every year during the months of May and November and the candidates are tested in Mathematics and General

Ability tests. The test on General Ability includes questions on reasoning, intelligence, General Knowledge and English. All unmarried male candidates with 10+2 pass are eligible for Army, Navy and Airforce, while for the Executive Branch course at Naval Academy, the candidate should be 10+2 examination pass with Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. All those who pass the examination are then required to undergo a Services Selection Board (SSB) interview and a detailed medical examination before joining as Cadets at the National Defence Academy (NDA), Kharakvasla (Pune). After 3 years at NDA and one year in the Military, Naval or Air force academies, the cadets are commissioned into the services as Second Lieutenant/Acting Sub-Lieutenant/Pilot Officer respectively.

### Staff Selection Commission

Staff Selection Commission (SSC) also holds a couple of competitive examinations. The first in the series is the stenographers (Grade-D) competitive examination. The required age group is 18 to 25 years and the minimum academic qualification required is Matriculation or equivalent examination. The examination is generally held once in a year by the SSC through its six Regional Directorates at Delhi, Allahabad, Calcutta, Guwahati, Bombay and Madras and two Deputy Regional Directorates at Raipur and Bangalore. The candidates are tested in two subjects, namely General Awareness and Test of Stenography. The successful candidates are inducted as Stenographers.

The second competitive examination conducted by the SSC is the Clerks Grade Examination, in which all persons with the minimum academic qualification of Matriculation or equivalent are eligible. The

examination is conducted jointly through six Regional Directors and two Dy Regional Directors of the SSC. The examination is conducted once in a year at over 50 centres spread all over the country. The age limit for this examination is also 18 to 25 years. The candidates are tested in two subjects, namely General Awareness & Aptitude Test, and Mathematical Ability.

### Hotel Industry

Tourism and hotel industry also offers many opportunities to the school leavers. There are a number of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition Institutes in the country including at New Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Bhubaneshwar, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Jaipur, Srinagar, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Bhopal and Goa. In addition there are several private institutes of Hotel Management. Most of these institutes offer Diploma in Hotel Management, with specialisations in Front Office, Food and Beverages, House Keeping, Catering etc. Diploma course is generally of 3-year duration. The minimum educational qualification required is 10 + 2 with at least 50 per cent marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The candidates are required to undergo and pass a Joint Entrance Examination and interview. The candidates should be less than 22 years of age while appearing in the Joint Entrance Examination. All the branches of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition Institutes in the country have reservation for the prescribed categories as per the policy of the government.

In addition to the Diploma courses offered by the above mentioned institutes there are many Food Craft institutes in the country which offer various certificate courses. These Institutes are located at Aligarh, Alwaye, Faridabad, Chandigarh,

Guwahati, Gwalior, Patna, New Delhi, Pune, Shimla, Thiruchirapalli, Udaipur and Vishakhapatnam. One of the certificate courses offered is the Craftsmanship Course in Food Production which is of 1½ years duration and the second important certificate course is the Craftsmanship Course in Food and Beverage service, which is of 24 weeks duration. Maximum age limit is 22 years and there is usual reservation for specified categories as per the government rules.

### Employment in Defence Services

In addition to the NDA examination discussed earlier, there are several other opportunities to the male school leavers with 10+2/Matriculation qualifications in all the three branches of defence services, which are as under:

(a) **Indian Army:** For recruitment into army, a revised system of Common Entrance Examination has been introduced recently. This examination aims at recruiting personnel in the other ranks namely Soldier (General Duty), Soldier Technical, Soldier (Clerk/Store Keeper) and Soldier (Nursing Assistant). There are certain physical standards prescribed and the male individuals having these standards of physique, and who are Matriculates can take the examination, as and when the vacancies are notified by the nearest Zonal/Branch Recruiting Office (ZRO/BRO). The examination is conducted in four parts and Part-I is compulsory for all entries and part II, III and IV are obligatory for Soldier (Technical), Soldier (Clerk/Store Keeper) and Soldier (Nursing Assistant).

(b) **Indian Airforce:** Indian Airforce also conducts an entrance examination for recruitment of Airmen in technical trades. After the examination, a zone wise common merit list is prepared and on the basis of merit, the candidates are called upon to join. Age limits for this examination is 16 to 19 years and educational qualification is either 10+2 with Mathematics and Physics or Matriculation or equivalent examination with 60 per cent marks and Science and Mathematics as compulsory subjects. The persons who pass the written exami-

nation are expected to possess prescribed physical standards. Initial engagement is for 20 years which may be extended upto 55 years of age.

(c) **Indian Navy:** Indian Navy provides varied opportunities to the bright school leavers. A person having 10+2 qualification with 70 per cent marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics with English as one of the subjects upto at least Matriculation Examination can be inducted as an engineer. The successful candidates are enrolled as cadets who undergo an initial six-month orientation training at Naval Academy Goa, followed by 4-year engineering course at Naval Engineering College, Lonavala. After 3½ years at the Engineering College the cadets are promoted as Midshipmen and on successful completion of the 4-year course, they are given the rank of Acting Sub Lieutenant and are also awarded a B. Tech Degree by the Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi. Further information can be obtained from the Directorate of Manpower Planning and Recruitment, (R & R) Section, Naval Headquarters, Room No. 208, C-Wing, Sena Bhawan, New Delhi-110011.

In addition, Indian Navy also offers opportunities for recruitment as Artificer Apprentices for all those who possess matric or equivalent qualification with minimum of 45 per cent marks. Selection is again made on the basis of a competitive examination and the candidates are tested in Mathematics, English and Science at all the recruiting offices. The successful candidates are required to undergo an interview and medical examination. Successful candidates are then required to undergo training for 3½ years and additional practical training of 6 months on board in any of the ships of Indian Navy. After successful training they are promoted as Artificer IVth class and are responsible for the maintenance of mechanical and electrical machinery on the ships.

(d) **Coast Guards:** Coast Guard is an Armed Force created for protection and regulation of coastal activities in India. It offers opportunities to the School leavers as General Duty Pilot/Navigators and Yantriks/Technical Sailors. A person with

10+2 qualifications and a current commercial Pilot licence between the age of 19-25 years may join as pilot/navigator. Short-listed candidates are called for written test/interview before final selection is made. The minimum qualification for recruitment to the post of Yantriks or Coast Guard is Matriculation and Diploma in Mechanical/Electrical/Electronics/Aeronautical Engineering with atleast 45 per cent marks. Short-listed candidates are called for test and interview at the convenient centres.

(e) **Merchant Navy:** Merchant Navy also offers attractive openings. The opening to this important career is through a two-year Navigation Course on T.S. Rajendra (a training Ship) Bombay, and 4-year Marine Engineering Course at DMET Calcutta. An entrance examination is conducted every year by the government for admission to the above courses. The candidates are tested in English, Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry. The eligibility is 12th pass under 10+2 or equivalent examination with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The detailed information on careers in merchant navy may be had from the Directorate General of Shipping, Jahaz Bhawan, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay-400038, or from the Controller, DGs Entrance Examination, Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research, Munshi Nagar, Dadabhai Road, Andheri (West) Bombay-400058.

(f) **Protective Services:** There are many protective services in the form of paramilitary forces under the government of India and even the State governments, under which a school leaver may seek career. These services include Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Railway Protection Force, State Police Department, State Forest Department, Fire Services Department of the States etc. A matriculate/10+2 candidate may join as a Constable, Guard, Navik or even Assistant Sub Inspector. The vacancies are notified by the concerned agencies from time to time.

(To be continued)

## PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

# Shed Lazy Thinking

**I**T is a pity that man's brain cannot be taken out and overhauled, cleaned and put in order again. Many have a brain that needs overhauling. It has grown rusty or mouldy. It cannot think afresh. It is caught in a rut.

Yet, there is nothing to despair. Many have re-structured their thinking by discarding the mental rubbish and have started a new life of success and influence.

The brain (read thinking) is either passive or active. It may be as passive as a gramophone record. Or it may be active. It may "study" facts, analyse and create opinions and "order" fresh improvements.

Scientists who have studied and dissected many human brains say that the average brain is only one-tenth developed. The pointer is significant—our thinking has immense untapped potential. To realize it to the utmost, it is essential not only to develop the passive part of the brain but also to shed lazy thinking.

Richard Weil has defined thinking as "the process of arranging experience into patterns". Patterns do come handy, but these result in generalisations and over simplifications. They rob us of hard thinking.

Many of us do not want to think hard for ourselves. We want our thinking to be readymade for us. It is because we find it easier to go easy ways. Many prefer mental and intellectual crutches. Since our various faculties are meant to be used and exercised, allowing them to stagnate is equal to our own overall stagnation.

When we say that personality is always in a state of flux, we mean that it is capable of change. Whether the change is for good or bad, is another thing. People grow and develop; people deteriorate and stagnate. The secret of both lies in their thoughts.

Isaac Taylor puts it: "Thinking, not growth, makes manhood. Accustom your-

self, therefore, to thinking. Set yourself to understand whatever you see or read. To join thinking with reading is one of the first maxims and one of the easiest operations."

## Atrophy

**I**N every-day life, we come across thousands of examples that make life and its complicated situations somewhat simple but slowly deprive us of our faculty to think for ourselves which leads to a gradual intellectual atrophy. That is why it is said that second and seasoned thoughts are the best.

Some time back a senior journalist asked this writer as to what I thought of my new batch of students. I replied, "It is too early to form any opinion. I want more time for that." Hasty opinions come from unboiled thoughts.

Proverbs contribute considerably in the formulation of this kind of thinking. "The face is the index of the mind", "Procrastination is the thief of time", etc. etc.

On closer examination, such maxims can often be refuted and contradicted. Sometimes many such widely accepted and used proverbs actually contradict each other.

Provide yourself with contradictions to the proverbs given above and see the difference. This exercise needs the use of your mental faculty whereas just accepting the aforesaid shows mental status quo.

Such thinking requires no effort. Gradually, we acquire the habit of using readymade thinking which becomes our mental flagship. Our faculty to think for ourselves diminishes. We find it hard, sometimes impossible, to analyse or dissect situations to arrive at rational conclusions.

Johnson says, "Mankind has a great

aversion to intellectual labour; but even supposing knowledge to be easily attainable, more people would be content to be ignorant than would take even a little trouble to acquire it."

We rob ourselves of the joy of creative thinking. By creative, I do not mean composing a poem, writing a novel or composing music. I simply mean a certain insight into the affairs of the world which enables us to sort out complex situations. It comes from constant sharpening of our mental and intellectual faculties. Status-quo thinking is a serious obstacle to such creative effort.

For example, if mankind had blindly adhered to the theory—genius is born, not made—the role of hard work in shaping the genius would have remained in a limbo.

Once we form the habit of lazy thinking, we surrender the faculty to sort out situations. Our reflexes make us react almost unthinkingly which takes a heavy toll of delicate human relationships.

A tale-bearer comes and whips up our mind against a friend. We accept his story, believe him blindly and perhaps pick up a row, lose sleep, or ditch a well-meaning friend.

This non-thinking results in stratification of the mind. We tend to classify human beings, situations and human behaviour into two narrow categories—good and bad. This might be the ultimate in simplification but it is also the ultimate in credulity.

Once the critical faculty atrophies, the mind seeks easy avenues to support the soft options. This compels us to believe readily all our good points, real or supposed.

By the same token, we believe in other's shortcomings and overlook their good points. Could anything be more harmful to the promotion of human understanding?

We may divide people into who think for themselves and those think through others. The latter are the rule, the former the exception.

The ill effects of lazy thinking are seen in the conflict between the generations and in marital relationships. The much-talked-about generation gap is almost wholly a product of this thinking. People from each end of the gap repeat, "youngsters are disrespectful", and "Elders do not understand our aspirations".

These are flushed reactions of lazy thinking. In matters of prudence, considered thoughts should be taken as guides.

The gap can be narrowed down considerably by examining each case on its merit. Both the parties have to go by rationale and not prejudice.

In the friendly sphere, the friends fail to judge one incident of misunderstanding on its merit. Their prejudices bring in other matters and widen the area of friction. They fling accusations at each other. The verbal gunfire is on. All because it is the first reaction—thoughtless.

They are victims of lazy thinking. They have not cultivated the art of looking at situations with detachment, rationale and judgement. They lose control of the situation because they are unable to see beyond the nose.

Thoughts come into the mind if some avenues are open and alert. They go out because some avenues we never open voluntarily!

The tame surrender of the alert faculty is a boon to swindlers and *sadhus* of dubious character. Many people, given to the habit of lazy thinking, unquestioningly accept postulates, principles and persons and then go about praising them to the

skies. They come to grief.

### Subtle Shades

THE worst outcome of this blunderous thinking is our seeing everything in two colours: black and white. We ignore all other colours and subtle shades. Such thinking has serious pitfalls. It hampers growth and development of personality.

A person who feels very strongly about drinking remarks quite often that those who drink are "characterless" people whatever the term means.

Surely, he knows that there are several categories of imbibers and not all can be painted black with the same brush. But so strong is the person's prejudice, which is but a pre-conceived notion, he is too willing to see them either in the gutter or on the gallows.

The person who displays such unbalanced tendencies in his thinking may be secretly nursing an unconscious desire for indulgence in drink. Therefore, he puts on black-and-white blinkers.

Closely allied to this malady and equally flimsy in its content is automatic praise which often degenerates into sycophancy. A look at the Congress (I) culture reveals more than is needed to clinch this point. Gandhis are ever Congressman's "my leaders", "dynamic leaders". There are no other shades in their character except the pink!

Look at the women and men at parties where everything Indian is "trashy" and everything foreign "swell". "Fanta-a-a-stic".

I agree with those who say that "thinking" is a very difficult thing to do. These are reasons for it.

Right from our young days, our minds are assaulted with millions of ideas, facts and objects, impressions and experiences.

It is not easy to manage them all. In order to bring about some semblance of order in this chaotic world of disorder, we find it convenient to put them in "groups" or "label" them so that "thinking" becomes easier.

It has its dangers. Suppose a librarian, instead of classifying books subjectwise tells his staff, "put all 100-page books in shelf one." Imagine the result. Some classics will be rubbing covers with trashy stuff.

What will be the result if we say: "All birds are equal." It means the parrot is the same thing as the hawk because both are "birds". "All four-footed animals are alike" which puts the gentle cow along with the ferocious tiger.

We do not judge persons and things by their respective qualities but by our own notions about them. "All ministers are corrupt" because we have a bad experience with one.

We accept these myths because we do not think. Even newspapers and other mediamen fall into the trap. Recall how Rajiv Gandhi was drenched into profuse showers of praise when he undeservedly became the Prime Minister of this country. Of thinking, it has been said by William Cowper: The rich are indolent. The poor are weak. Neither can stand the fatigue of thinking.

#### Here are a few helpful hints:

- Nurture your mind with fresh thoughts. Discard the banal.
- Avoid sweeping generalizations. Dispel stereotypes.
- Deliberately topsy-turvy the long-accepted generalizations. You will cultivate an active brain.
- Reverse the proverb. Or find its contradiction. You will be pleasantly surprised.
- Carefully examine the quotations used in this article. This exercise in itself will yield some positive results.

## IAS/PCS Prelims / Mains 1997

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IAS (MAINS) SPECIAL

# General Studies

Solved Questions from the Previous Years' General Studies Papers

**Q. 1. What is the position of the Supreme Court under the Constitution of India? Discuss its role as guardian of the Constitution. (About 250 words)**

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 1.** Indian Constitution bestows enormous quantum of powers to the Supreme Court of India and it is said that the Indian Supreme Court has wider jurisdiction and more powers than any of highest courts in the world. It is the federal court, the highest court of appeal and the guardian of the Constitution. American Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction only pertaining to the cases arising out of federal relationships and Constitutional validity of laws. Indian Supreme Court, on the other hand, is the highest appellate court for even civil and criminal cases. It is also the highest court of appeal for the decisions of various tribunals in the country. In addition, Indian Constitution enjoys wider powers and responsibility in the matters pertaining to its advisory function. President of India may refer any matter to the Supreme Court for its advice.

Since mid-eighties, the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has added a new dimension to the role of Supreme Court.

Though not mentioned in the Constitution, PIL has empowered the judiciary in general and the Supreme Court in particular, virtually unlimited jurisdiction in entertaining the matters of the Public Interest. It has substantially strengthened the position of the Supreme Court in the political system of the country.

**As a Guardian of the Constitution:** Almost all the apex courts have the power to declare as void any act of the government which is unconstitutional. But, Indian Constitution does not provide for judiciary's control over the legislature. However, Article 13 of the Constitution asserts that any law which contravenes any of the provisions of Fundamental Rights shall be void. The power of Judicial Review has not been specially provided for in the Constitution but the Supreme Court has held that the Constitution being the organic law, any law or act of the legislature or the executive which aims at altering the "basic structure" of the Constitution shall be void.

**Q. 2. Answer the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words)**

(a) Explain the grounds on which the President can proclaim a state of Emergency. Give examples from Indian experience.

(b) What changes, according to you, have taken place in the power structure in rural India in recent decade?

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 2.** Indian Constitution provides for some extra-ordinary powers upon the Union government in case of emergencies. These emergency provisions enable the Union government to assume the strength of a unitary system to combat the extra-ordinary situation arising internally or externally. The grounds on which the President of India may declare a state of emergency in the country are as under:

(i) An emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution arising due to war, external aggression or armed rebellion. Prior to 1978 instead of "armed rebellion", the words "internal disturbance" were existing, which were replaced by the 44th Constitutional amendment. This is also called national emergency.

(ii) Article 356 of the Constitution provides for a proclamation of emergency for particular State on the grounds of failure of Constitutional machinery. The word emergency, however, is generally used for national emergencies only.

(iii) Article 360 of the Constitution provides for proclamation of a financial emergency.

In India, first proclamation of emergency was made under Article 352 on October 26, 1962 at the time of Chinese aggression. This emergency was revoked by the President on January 10, 1968. Second emergency was declared by the President under Article 352 on December 3, 1971 when Pakistan launched an attack on India. The emergency continued upto 25th June, 1975 when the third proclamation of emergency was made under Article 352 on the grounds of internal disturbance. Both these proclamations were revoked in March 1977.

**Ans. 2. (b)** At the village level the political power still flows from the level of economic prosperity. At the time of indepen-

*This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. This issue like the previous issue incorporates questions from previous papers. November '96 and December '96 issues will carry expected questions. Readers are invited to send us any specific topic or question that they would like us to include in this feature.*

dence, there were glaring inequalities of income and land holdings. Power was in the hands of a few land-lords. Level of education and knowledge was very poor among the masses. Weaker sections of the society were still being exploited. Maladies like tenancies and bonded labour were rampant. There was hardly any democratic power with the rural masses.

But the last few decades have witnessed many changes which have resulted in gradual but steady changes in power structures in the rural areas of the country. Effective implementation of the land reforms has ensured land availability to the landless and ownership rights to the tenants. Land ceiling acts of the States have imposed restrictions on the land holdings beyond the limits put by the government, which also resulted in restricting the power enjoyed by traditionally 'strong' persons. Further, the poverty alleviation programmes and other programmes aimed at rural developments have significantly empowered the weaker sections. The "Green Revolution" has further strengthened the poor sections.

Democratic system in the country has been an important factor in strengthening the hands of hitherto weaker sections. Indian democracy is emerging stronger after successive elections. Reservation to the weaker sections has helped in increasing their percentage in the public service. Recent amendment to the Constitution, pertaining to the Panchayati Raj has not only resulted in strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions but has also empowered women and other weaker sections by providing them with the authority to take community decisions in a decentralised democratic set up.

**Q. 3. Both Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru were interested in India's economic development, but there were some basic differences in their approach to this problem. Point out clearly those basic differences. (About 200 words).**

*Civil Services (Main) 1985*

**Ans. 3.** There are no two opinions that both Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru were very keen on the rapid economic development of India. Though the ends were the same, means propagated by both were at variance. There were some basic differences in the approach of these two leaders towards this problem and some of these differences are as under:

(a) Pt. Nehru was greatly impressed by heavy investment model of development adopted by erstwhile USSR and believed in development of key and basic industries to ensure rapid economic development. He believed that it was only heavy industrialisation which could result in rapid development of the country. Mahatma Gandhi, on the other hand, believed that in a country like India, small scale and cottage industries held the key to rapid development, as it would provide work to every hand in the rural areas. That is why Gandhi was the main proponent of *khadi* and called it the panacea for most of the economic problems in India.

(b) While Pandit Nehru believed in heavy capital intensive technologies, Gandhi favoured labour-intensive indigenous technologies in the industries.

(c) Gandhi believed that the local industries should be so well-developed in the rural areas as to make every village a self-sufficient unit, where most of the local needs were met by such small and indigenous industries. Pandit Nehru, on the other hand, believed in modern method of development which are more productive and efficient.

(d) Pandit Nehru propagated that every person should have a scientific temperament and he himself believed in the development of science and technology, so that its application may benefit the society at large. Mahatma Gandhi was more practical and believed that locally produced parts/machines may prove to be more efficient and rural and traditional technologies may be more effective in achieving rapid rate of economic growth in an agrarian society like ours.

(e) Gandhian model of rural development was based on democratic and financial decentralisation but Nehru was not a strong supporter of this concept.

(f) Gandhi's views on community ownership of resources and assets and the concept of trusteeship are peculiar feature of his thinking on economic development. He believed that the private owners of assets should act and behave as trustees of the resources of the community at large.

**Q. 4. (a) Discuss the political, social and economic characteristics of the Indian State. (About 250 words).**

(b) Keeping in view the political developments in India, explain how the need for national integration and the urge for regional autonomy can be reconciled. (About 250 words).

*Civil Services (Main) 1985*

**Ans. 4 (a)** Characteristics of Indian State emanate from the Constitutional provisions, government policies and other legislations prevailing in the country. The following are, in brief, political, social and economic characteristics of Indian State.

(i) **Political Characteristics:** India is sovereign socialist, secular, democratic republic, with rule of law, liberty and equality granted to citizens by the Constitution as the hallmarks of its political characteristics. In addition, India is a federal State with strong unitary tendencies, more particularly in the emergencies. Fundamental Rights to its citizens and the Directive Principles are two special characteristics of Indian Constitution. With single citizenship and moderately rigid provisions for amending the Constitution, India has chosen a parliamentary form of government. Complete independence of judiciary and election machinery are the two features which are unmatched by most of the developing nations.

(ii) **Social Characteristics:** Indian State is socialist and secular in nature and there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, sex or religion. Promoting the fraternity among various communities is another important feature. Indian State also endeavours social equity and justice by providing for several measures and special provisions for upliftment of weaker sections of the society, so that the exploitation of centuries is gradually undone. Socialistic pattern of society is not merely an objective but it is a deeply rooted policy aiming at ownership of resources

by the society as such.

(iii) **Economic Characteristics:** Economic justice and socialistic pattern are among the most important economic characteristics of Indian State. Progressive taxation laws, rural development programmes, programmes for upliftment of the economically weaker sections are the policy measures in pursuance to the above characteristics. Land reforms were the other policy measures which ensured ownership rights to the tenants and allotment of land to the landless. Other important economic characteristics are the concept of mixed economy and emphasis on the redistribution of economic resources.

**Ans. (b)** National unity and integrity have been the two major objectives of every government in India. The historic perspective in which Indian Union emerged also depended largely on integration of many princely as well as British-ruled States, resulting in the formation of present-day Union of States. Indian Constitution provides for a federal system with a strong unitary bias. The functioning of the Constitution, during the past over four and a half decades, has, however, resulted in demand for more autonomy by many States and regions. Such demands, in many cases even assumed the tone of being separatist. The agitations/movements in Assam, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, J & K, Punjab, West Bengal (Darjeeling) and Bihar (Jharkhand) are such examples.

Under such a scenario, it is often argued that the demand for regional autonomy runs contrary to the objective of national integration. It is further argued that in a political system like ours, it may not be in the interest of national integrity to weaken the strong Centre. It is further said that any dilution of authority of the Centre would result in undue strengthening of the States which could pose danger to the national unity in future.

But of late, political developments in the country have indicated that the fears may be ill-founded. The demand for more autonomy for States has been accepted in principle by successive governments. Formation of Sarkaria Commission was an exercise in this direction. With the rise of regional parties on the horizon of Indian democratic set up in the recent years, the demand is likely to be reinforced. If 1996 General Election results are any indication, regional parties are going to have a larger role in formation of Union governments in the near future. It also means that the governments at the Centre shall have to consider the need for greater autonomy to the regions/States. It, therefore, need not interfere with the overall objective of national integrity, if implemented with caution and sincerity.

**Q. 5. Identify and analyse a few major management problems which the Indian public enterprises are facing today. In the light of your analysis would you advocate "privatisation" of some of our public enterprises. (about 250 words).**

*Civil Services (Main) 1990*

**Ans. 5.** Most of the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) are today facing many problems. High expectations from these enter-

prises have put additional pressure on them. During early fifties and sixties, it was expected that the growing PSEs would live upto the expectations of the country in the coming years. But seventies and eighties witnessed severe degeneration of these enterprises, resulting in poor performance. It has been felt that the PSEs are facing several management problems which are largely responsible for their decay. Some of the major management problems are as under:

- (a) Lack of Professionalism
- (b) Lack of Accountability
- (c) Inadequacy of top management
- (d) Weak Financial Management
- (e) Hardly any provisions for Human Resource Development (HRD)

**Policy of Privatisation:** Privatisation is of many types and includes outright sale of units, leasing out some units to private parties, disinvestment of government equity to some extent, etc. Privatisation in any of the above forms is often advocated as panacea to overcome most of the above management related problems. In India, the process of reforms also brought with itself the concept of privatisation by way of disinvestment of public equity, maximum to the extent of 49 per cent. It is argued that such a policy would bring in some quantum of private capital in the PSEs, thereby introducing more professionalism and accountability. Further, it is argued that the functioning would be de-bureaucratised and these enterprises would be run in more business-like manner. But the experience of 50 odd enterprises over the past over 4 years now, has indicated that disinvestment has not been able to achieve most of its objectives, as not much of change has been witnessed in the management processes. Government being the major share holder, continues to exercise its control over such PSEs. Hence, this policy alone cannot be said to remedy all the ailments of PSEs. Moreover, the policy also runs contrary to the very philosophy of the public sector. Hence, unless the PSEs are given more autonomy, and professionalism is duly inducted in their ranks, privatisation alone may find it difficult to result in revamping of the PSEs.

**Q. 6. Answer the following:**

- (a) "The Minto-Morley Reforms did not and could not provide an answer to Indian problems." Explain.
- (b) "The Lucknow pact of 1916 was signed without regard for its consequences." Elucidate. (About 50 words each).

*Civil Services (Main) 1993*

**Ans. 6. (a)** The Minto-Morley Reforms or the Act of 1909 introduced several changes by providing some Constitutional concessions. Measures included increasing the number of elected members in the Imperial Legislative Council and the Provincial Councils, authorising the councillors to ask supplementary questions, power to discuss and vote the budgets, providing power to the councillors to initiate legislations on the matters of public interest and providing a system of separate electorate by grouping Muslims in separate constituencies.

But, the reforms introduced were considered to be inadequate. Most of the elected members were elected indirectly by

the lower administrative institutions and most of the seats were reserved for landlords and British capitalists. For example, out of 68 members of the Imperial Legislative Council only 27 were elected members out of which six seats were reserved for landlords and two for British capitalists. Further, the Councils had no real power and were mainly advisory in nature and hence did little to further the cause of democracy in India. The system of separate electorate also harmed the efforts of national unification and sowed the seeds of separation.

**Ans. 6. (b)** The immediate aim of signing the Lucknow Pact was to forge Hindu-Muslim unity. The efforts to sign the pact were made by none other than Muhammed Ali Jinnah and Lokmanya Tilak. With the common goal of fighting the British, both the communities joined hands by putting forward a joint scheme of separate electorate and demanded self-government for India at an early date.

Although Lucknow Pact was a major step ahead in the Hindu-Muslim unity, yet it did not have the desired long-term effect as the masses from both the communities were not involved in this decision. The precarious principle of separate electorate proved to a detriment to the unity of both the communities, which could not be visualised when the Pact was signed. In their eagerness to oust the alien power, the Indian leaders inadvertently compromised with the principle of secularism which proved harmful in future.

**Q. 7. Answer of the following: (Answer to each question should be in about 150 words).**

(a) Does reduction in fiscal deficit necessarily assure reduction in inflation?

(b) What policy has the government of India adopted in recent years to protect our environment, control pollution and maintain ecological balance? State briefly.

(c) Do you think that income tax reduces economic incentives? Give your reasons.

(d) What has been the rationale for deregulating commercial banks lending rates as a policy strategy?

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 7. (a)** In spite of reasonably good performance of the economy during the past several years, mounting fiscal deficit is creating serious problems for the policy makers. Government has taken various steps to keep the fiscal deficit in check but the desired results are not forthcoming. Till recently, the higher fiscal deficit was also "coinciding with high rate of inflation". During the year 1990-91, the fiscal deficit as percentage of the GDP reached a record level of 8.3 per cent, pulling the inflation rate also beyond double-digit barrier. It is argued at times that an increase in inflation rate has a positive correlation with the level of the fiscal deficit as percentage of the GDP and vice versa. Hence, it is also said that a reduction in fiscal deficit would result in a reduction in the rate of inflation.

A reduction or increase in fiscal deficit is certainly going to have an impact on the price level, but it necessarily may not result in corresponding change in inflation rate. The reason is

simple. Fiscal deficit is only one of the many factors influencing the rate of inflation. Some of the other factors like higher wages, increased interest rates, expensive imports, reduction in the value of rupee vis-a-vis foreign exchange, increase in administered prices, increased rates of transportation, etc are independent of fiscal deficit but directly affect the price level. It would be wrong to conclude that a reduction in fiscal deficit would necessarily result in a reduction in the rate of inflation, and vice versa.

**Ans. 7 (b)** Environmental degradation, deforestation, increasing levels of pollution and ecological imbalance are some of the causes of serious concern of the country today. The process of development is known to bring all these maladies to the fore in all developing nations. Recognizing the need to restore the ecological balance, the government of India has adopted certain subtle policy measures in the past. In a rapidly developing system like ours, where pressure of increasing population aggravates the situation, the threats to all natural eco-systems come from pollution, excessive use and destruction.

Eighth Five Year Plan document clearly spells out the strategy followed by the government for protection of environment, pollution control and maintenance of ecological balance. National Forest Policy of 1988, The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, as amended in 1988, National Wildlife Action Plan, Environment Protection Act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, as amended in 1987, are some of the legislative and structured policy measures adopted by the government. In addition, regeneration and restoration of degraded ecosystems are funded and encouraged by the government. Developing the understanding of nature and natural processes through media research and training institutions, energy conservation measures, control of industrial waste, both solid and liquid, are some of the other policy measures. Forest and Wildlife Policy, Ganga Action Plan and Afforestation Programme are some of the policy measures having direct and positive impact on the problem areas. All these policies are generously funded by the government of India and have made considerable impact on ecology and environment in the country.

**Ans. 7. (c)** All the direct taxes have special qualities that firstly, these cannot be shifted and secondly their incidence and impact is on the same person. Psychologically also, a minor increase in the direct taxes may appear pinching while relatively heavier dose of indirect taxes may be ignored. Income tax is also no exception. At times it is argued that income tax reduces the economic incentive. In other words, imposition of income tax acts as a disincentive from working harder and earning more.

The above feeling may come at the level of individuals, when viewed purely from the selfish motive. But in general the concept of Income Tax is based on the principle of social equity. Individuals and businessmen earning more incomes and profits have increasing responsibility towards the society as a whole. This principle of equity further postulates the ideal of redistribution of economic resources. Hence, the persons with higher in-

come levels are required to bear the burden for providing basic amenities to the weaker and poorer sections.

Notwithstanding the rationale of socio-economic equity, excessive rate of income tax also tend to turn into disincentive to the hardworking and higher income earning persons. With a progressive tax rate slabs, higher income earners not only have to pay higher taxes, but they have to pay taxes at higher rates as their incomes increase beyond prescribed limits/slabs. For example, a company may have to pay a certain percentage of its income towards taxes. But another company which is more efficient and achieves higher level of profits will have to pay tax at the higher rate beyond prescribed limits. This is, thus, interpreted as economic disincentives for being more efficient and productive. But there is no other way, as this policy of progressive direct taxation is based on another principle of taxation called "capacity to pay". Moreover, the marginal utility of money, like other consumption goods is also reduced gradually at higher levels of income, although the principle of diminishing marginal utility does not apply to money in its strict sense. Hence this "sacrifice" on part of the persons/entities having higher capacity to pay, forms the core of the principle of progressive direct taxes and though, may result in reduced incentives in strict sense, yet this type of taxation is in the overall interest of the community, more particularly in developing economy like ours where socio-economic equity is the major objective of planning process.

Ans. 7. (d) Till recently, regulation of interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been the hallmark of Indian monetary policy. It was argued that in a planned and developing economy like ours, interest rates not only act as lending rates, but are also used as policy measures to regulate the money supply, control the inflation rate and regulate the expansion of credit. With the onset of the process of structural reforms, a lot of deregulation of the economy was done. There was also a talk of complete deregulation of interest rates. Complete deregulation of interest rates has still remained a pipe dream but recently, the RBI announced deregulation of lending rates of the commercial banks. As a result, all the commercial banks are free to determine the interest rates for given projects within the broad prescribed limits by carrying out the feasibility studies of the said project at their own level. Earlier, the RBI used to prescribe lending rates for all the commercial banks taken together, depending upon the sector of the economy, duration of the loan and the policy of the government. The new strategy has given freedom to the commercial banks to evaluate the business proposals at their own level and decide about the rate of interest to be charged by them, at their own level. Gradually, the interest rates are to be used purely as lending rates rather than as policy measures. The previous policy most of the times acted as hinderance towards the expansion of credit, as mostly the commercial banks were required to bear the cost of economic development and were not given the freedom of increasing or decreasing the lending rates on the basis of economic viability of the projects. Another rationale behind such a de-

regulation is that the government is judging the performance of the commercial banks purely on economic considerations. Moreover, in a delicensed and liberalised policy the lending institutions must be given the freedom of fixing their lending rates. In the near future, the RBI may decide to deregulate the interest rate components including the deposit as well as the lending rates.

**Q. 8. (a) Mention, in each case, the most appropriate diagram to represent the following data:**

- (i) The population figures of a State at different censuses.
- (ii) The number of educational institutions for men and for women in India in ten different years.
- (iii) The percentage of national income from various sources in a country during a certain year.
- (iv) The number of car accidents in a road during each of last 50 days.

(b) The following table shows the distribution of monthly income for 580 persons:

Monthly Income (Rs)	No. of Persons
Less than 1000	53
Less than 1500	133
Less than 2000	254
Less than 2500	394
Less than 3000	500
Less than 3500	542
Less than 4000	560
Less than 4500	571
Less than 5000	580

Find (i) the percentage of persons having income between Rs 1500 and Rs 2500.

(ii) The percentage of persons having income between Rs 3500 and Rs 4500.

*Civil Services (Main) 1994*

**Ans. 8. (a) The most appropriate diagram to represent the data given would be as under:**

- (i) Bar Diagram
- (ii) Multiple Bar Diagram
- (iii) Pie Diagram
- (iv) Graph/Frequency Curve

**Ans. 8. (b) The information is given in the form of cumulative frequency, which is first required to be restructured in simple frequency, as under:**

Monthly Income Slabs (Rs)	No. of Persons
0-1000	53
1000-1500	80
1500-2000	121
2000-2500	140
2500-3000	106
3000-3500	42
3500-4000	18
4000-4500	11
4500-5000	9

Since in the above frequency table lower limit is inclusive and upper limit of income is exclusive, the percentage of persons having income between Rs 1500 and Rs 2500, and Rs 3500 and Rs 4500 can be calculated as under:

(i) Total No. of persons having income between Rs 1500 and Rs 2500 as per frequency above = 261

Percentage of persons having incomes between

$$\text{Rs 1500 and Rs 2500} = \frac{261}{580} \times 100 = 45\%$$

(ii) Total No. of persons having income between Rs 3500 and Rs 4500 as per frequency above = 29

Percentage of persons having incomes between

$$\text{Rs 3500 and Rs 4500} = \frac{29}{580} \times 100 = 5\%$$

**Q. 9. (a) State whether the following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your answers.**

(i) In an mechanical engineering class 80% male students completed the course in due time of four years whereas 100 per cent female students did the same. Therefore the performance of female students is generally better than male students.

(ii) Two students got the following marks in three examinations.

Student A    60/100    72/80    35/50

Student B    48/80    108/120    105/150

It is claimed that B has better performance than A.

(iii) The salary of a person is first increased by 18 per cent then decreased by 5 per cent. His net increase is 12.1 per cent.

(b) An investor buys Rs 2400 worth of shares of a company each month. During the first six months he bought the shares at a price of Rs 20, Rs 24, Rs 30, Rs 40, Rs 48 and Rs 60 per share. After six months, what is the average price per share paid by him?

*Civil Services (Main) 1995*

**Ans. 9 (a) (i)** The statement is false. Reasons are firstly the total number of male and female students is not given, as generally in mechanical engineering the number of female students is very less, and secondly on the basis of the performance in mechanical engineering course/class in one college, a general statement about the performance of male and female students cannot be made.

**(ii)** The given statement is false. If the percentage of marks obtained by both the students in the three examinations is calculated, it comes to 60 per cent, 90 per cent and 70 per cent respectively. In other words, the percentage of marks obtained by both the students in all three examinations is same and hence their performance is equal. Hence it is wrong to say that the performance of B is better than that of A.

**(iii)** The given statement is true. To explain, let us suppose that the salary of a person is Rs 100. 18 percentage increase would take it to Rs 118. A reduction of 5 percentage on 118 comes to Rs

5.90 and the remaining salary becomes Rs 112.10. Hence net increase in salary comes to Rs 12.10 which is 12.1 per cent. Hence the statement is true.

**Ans. 9. (b)** To arrive at average price per share after six months, monthwise number of shares purchased requires to be calculated as under:

Month	Total Amount spent	Price per share	No. of shares purchased (2400 ÷ price per share)
1.	2400	20	120
2.	2400	24	100
3.	2400	30	80
4.	2400	40	60
5.	2400	48	50
6.	2400	60	40
	14,400	Total.	450

Hence total number of shares purchased in 6 months = 450

Total amount spent in purchase = Rs 14,400

$$\text{Average Price per share after six months} = \frac{14,400}{450} = 32$$

Average price per share = Rs 32.

**Q. 10. (a)** A cyclist goes up to the top of a slope at 10 km/hr and returns to the starting point at 20 km/hr. Find the average speed, "average" being taken over time as usual.

**(b)** A person has to cross on foot a tank along a narrow paved path. Which statistic or datum about the depth of water is of greatest relevance to him—mean, median, mode or what if none of these three?

*Civil Services (Main) 1984*

**Ans. 10. (a)** To calculate the average speed, let us assume the one way distance is 20 km. Hence the total journey and time taken is as under:

*Going up*

Average speed = 10 km/hr

Time taken = 2 hours

Distance Travelled = 20 km.

*Coming down*

Average speed = 20 km/hr

Time taken = 1 hour

Distance travelled = 20 km

Total distance travelled = 20 + 20 = 40 km

Total time taken = 1 + 2 = 3 hours

$$\text{Average speed} = \frac{40}{3} = 13.33 \text{ km/hr.}$$

**Ans. 10. (b)** Mean, median and mode represent averages of depth i.e. arithmetic average, central value (depth at the centre) and most usual value (depth) respectively. All these values would not be of use to him. He needs the datum about the maximum depth of the tank and then compare it with his height, to make sure that he does not get drowned in the water tank.

# Descriptive Questions

## State-funding of elections

**Q.** Only State-funding of elections can ensure free and fair polls. Give two arguments in favour and two arguments against the proposition.

### Arguments in favour of proposition

1. There is a near agreement on the fact that our electoral system has deteriorated over the years as a result of the complete control that the tainted has come to acquire over it. Apart from the serious concern and consideration that the thinking people have shown from time to time, the entire election process has been enmeshed more and more in the ever-spreading tentacles of money, muscle and mafia power. The way corruption has crept into the elections and criminals have come to dictate terms and influence the outcome of polls, it is time that some concrete and immediate steps or reforms were introduced and the entire electoral system is rid off the evil influence of money—mostly black and illegal. For this, the only step that can squarely meet the challenge of 'money power' for a *quid pro quo*, is the immediate introduction of 'State-funding of elections'.

2. Once the political parties are debarred from spending a single penny from their own collections, legal or otherwise, the vulgar display of money by parties, candidates or their supporters would get a nagging noose and to considerable extent the evil shadow of money over elections would become less dark and dubious. In many advanced democracies of Europe, 'State-funding of elections' has been in operation for long and it has worked quite successfully towards the holding of free and fair polls, as also towards the elimina-

tion of 'money-power' in elections. Since nothing succeeds like success, let us give a trial to the proposition and see the results.

### Arguments against the proposition

1. Since a single swallow does not make summer, similarly a solitary reform like 'State-funding of elections', however laudable it may be, cannot cleanse the electoral system that has been vitiated over the years with all sorts of maladies and vested interests. To jump to a hasty conclusion from the practices of some highly educated and advanced western countries is to put the cart before the horse. What has succeeded in the West may not work here, for obvious reasons.

2. When a plethora of political parties and independents are in the fray at the time of elections, how are we going to determine the quantum of funds and other material that each party, big or small, should get. Moreover, who is going to foot the bill that 'State-funding of elections' is likely to present itself at the time of each election. In case the polls result in a hung house, how are we going to account for such a huge expenditure, the result of which is only uncertainty or horse-trading or any other marriage of convenience or compulsion? It should be more than clear to all concerned that the ills of casteism, communalism, religious fundamentalism on the one hand and criminalisation of politics, muscle and mafia power on the other, would not disappear simply because the powers-that-be have become active in the shape of 'State-funding of elections'.

## Trade fairs and globalisation

**Q.** Some people think that trade fairs are very important in the changing world and ongoing globalisation. Give your views based on study, knowledge and experience on the subject under reference.

**Ans.** After the 'cultural festivals', now is the time to explore the potential of trade fairs in promoting indigenous industries and boosting the near marginal share of export earnings in the context of liberalisation-cum-globalisation. The days of over-protectionism and subsidies, to keep the home industries aloof from facing regional or international competition, are over. Today, we are face-to-face with the forces of market economy and the resultant fall-out of liberal trade and industrial policies sweeping across the world. Unless new markets are explored and the home products exposed to international buyers, no developing or even a developed country can hope to stay long in the race. With globalisation taking strides in every nook and corner of the world, it is time that a close look was given to the relevance of trade fairs and their contribution in making the national economies strong, viable and competitive.

If some people think that trade fairs have become an integral part of the ongoing process of liberalisation-cum-globalisation, they are very much in line with the temper and tone of times. With business and trade going global, business houses, big and small, are sure to get an excellent opportunity to keep abreast with the latest trends through the periodic holding or arranging of trade fairs. In this way those products



and services can be displayed at a comparatively low cost. Through the organisation of trade fairs many misconceptions and misunderstandings about a country's capacity and capability to acquire excellence can be cleared and the scope of its industrial products being marketed abroad can be translated into a rewarding reality.

Since aggressive marketing and modern technology are the need of the day, the exploration of new markets and buyers is inherent and implied in the growing importance of trade fairs. An entrepreneur can demonstrate, test market his project or product and gauge the response at a comparative low cost. Trade fairs, as such, are an excellent platform to interact with businessmen and industrialists from the world over. They can play a pivotal role in projecting a country's industrial growth.

### **Sports and ethics**

**Q. 'Sports and ethics' today are not contradictory but complimentary to each other. Substantiate the statement with arguments and facts.**

**Ans.** Ever since sports and games became an integral part of human psyche, both for physical fitness and pleasure, ethics and morality in their evolution, development and excellence have been the hall-mark of their exalted position in our lives. Just as 'art for art's sake' and 'games or sports for their own sake' make human passion and pursuit in the respective field of expression or participation, a pure and pious pastime, similarly any aberration or monetary motivation in these highly honoured activities can bring nothing but unhealthy competition and undesirable consequences.

Traditionally, sports have been linked to good health. Unfortunately, this linkage or relationship is becoming highly suspect, now, due to the fact that major sports and games tournaments are sponsored by manufacturers of liquor, cigarettes and junk food. Thus, sports glamour is being used on a massive scale to sell products that are

clearly harmful for health and happiness. This is where ethics is being side-lined or marginalised simply to promote profits and pollute the impressionable minds with all sorts of wrong notions and nuances about sports and games.

Involvement of big money also leads to several irregularities, cheating and tensions which sometimes erupt in violence. Even the rules of some sports have been changed to make room for telecasting of advertisements which in turn spread excessively consumerist values. High commercial stakes have led to increasing resort to drugs by sportspersons to enhance their performance.

Robert Guy Author writes: "Winning at all costs is a growing mania and menace in America, a form of war permeating the minds and souls of many contestants, as personified in football and authorised in boxing. Contestants would not only maim their opponents but now seem willing to sell their soul to achieve a win, no matter how tarnished."

Nearer home, whether in hockey or cricket, any match between India and Pakistan is seldom a display of better skill, field work or foot work on the part of contesting teams because at the back of each player's mind, the honour of his country is at stake. It is more a war of nerves in which the audience or spectators too give full vent to their surcharged emotions, anger or admiration, vulgarity or violence. All this demeans the stature and spirit of the game because ethics takes a flight the moment national egos make their entry on the playing field.

While more and more effort is being put into organising sports tournaments as million-dollar extravaganzas, sadly the basic aspects of sports are being neglected. The need of the hour is to re-establish the fast losing bond between sports and health, sports and ethics.

### **Disappearance of marriage institution**

**Q. If the institution of marriage disappears from the world, what will happen? Give three important consequences**

**if such a situation takes place.**

**Ans.** Marriage and family are the two sides of the same coin. By their very evolution and existence, we have enjoyed the gifts of social harmony and human happiness since time immemorial. If by any quirk of circumstances, the institution of marriage suffers a total eclipse, the following consequences are bound to follow in all their ferocity and blood-chilling intensity.

The first and foremost impact of the dubious development will be on the institution of family, whether joint, nuclear or single. The entire edifice of family, that has provided strength and stability to all its members since ages, will crumble and dash to the ground like a house of cards. Out of the broken or shattered ashes of the fallen families the world over, only confusion and chaos will become manifest all round. All bonds of blood relations will disappear into the thin air.

In the sinister scenario, marriage, which is the most august and auspicious occasion among all communities will become non-existent. Festivities and feasts associated with marriage will become a thing of the past. The eagerness with which the young and the old look forward to the solemn and sacred celebration of marriage and its actual occurrence in the family, will vanish from the 'new social milieu'. One and all, without exception, will be deprived of the excitement and exultation that a marriage provides to all hearths and homes. All those connected with the celebration of marriages would find themselves irrelevant and consequently the sale of jewellery, cloth and other costly items needed at the time of marriage would come down drastically.

The worst sufferers of the new situation would be children whose parenthood and bringing up would be lost in mystery and misery. Home, the greatest citadel of security against all sorts of exigencies, would disappear from the social map of each and every society. Blood relations would become suspect and there would be an all round decay and deterioration in social norms.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

#### SCANDALS

##### CBI raids former Communication Minister Sukh Ram's houses

ON August 16, 1996, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided the Delhi and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) residences of former Communication Minister Mr Sukh Ram. A huge quantity of jewellery, a number of incriminating documents relating to property and his bank accounts and Rs 3 crore in hard cash was recovered.

The CBI had earlier registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act on August 8, 1996, against the former minister and Ms Runu Ghosh, Deputy Director General (Finance) in the Licensing Cell for Basic and Cellular Services in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), for allegedly favouring a Hyderabad based telecom firm Advanced Radio Masts Limited (ARM).

On August 17, the CBI arrested Ms Runu Ghosh. Raids at her house revealed Rs 1.65 lakh in cash besides 4700 US dollars and some other foreign currencies amounting to Rs one lakh. Also, jewellery worth Rs 7 lakh and some other valuables were seized.

Raids were also conducted at the residence of the owner of ARM, Mr Patalu Rama Rao.

Following the raids on the former Communication Minister's house, the Congress Party suspended him on August 21. The suspension followed a demand by some sections in the party, including Mr Rajesh Pilot, that he be suspended from the Congress. Mr Pilot had sought immediate expulsion of Sukh Ram.

The CBI also summoned Sukh Ram's son, Anil Sharma, who was a minister in the Himachal government. Anil Sharma, however, denied any knowledge about the money recovered during the raids.

##### Reprieve for Rao in Lakhubhai case

FORMER Prime Minister Mr PV Narasimha Rao was fortunate to get a

#### Age of takeovers is here

Mr PN Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India and Chairman of the committee set up by SEBI to frame new takeover guidelines, released the draft code on August 28, 1996. The new code is expected to give full play to the predatory instincts of the corporate and business class and turn the heat on inefficient and vulnerable managements.

Mr Bhagwati said that the draft code has sought to ensure that the provisions are not too onerous so as to completely prevent takeovers. At the same time, the code provides enough protection to minority share-holders in the case of takeover.

The new code is expected to be notified by November/December, 1996 and will be enforced thereafter.

The new code is expected to herald end of an era where business families controlled companies perpetually, regardless of their performance. In the new era, any management that fails to use its assets productively will become a takeover target.

Supporters of the change say it will force slothful managements to shape up or get out, making them accountable for their performance; that very possibility of takeover will ginger up existing managements, to the public benefit; that poorly-managed companies will not go sick and instead will be taken over by better managers who will improve the lot of small share holders, employees, and the whole economy; that internal quarrels within the promoter's family will no longer drag down entire companies.

Critics of change say that predators will be let loose to pounce on the unwary; that the big fish will now swallow the minnows; that managements will stop focusing on investment and concentrate instead on taking over others or protecting themselves from takeover; that rich crooks will take over companies not to run them but to gut them; that a new breed of 'greenmailers' will come up who will threaten a company with takeover unless they are paid off.

The point to be noted here is that no takeover code can guarantee that abuses will not occur. All countries have faced this problem, and so will India. However, the positive results are expected to be far more than negative.

reprieve in the Lakhubhai cheating case twice during August. On August 12, the Supreme Court stayed proceedings in the trial court till August 20. The decision regarding naming Mr Rao as a co-accused and his personal appearance was challenged by his counsel. It was pointed out that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mr Prem Kumar, should have sought an investigation into the allegation by the complainant that Mr Rao had cheated him, before naming him as a co-accused and summoning him to the court.

Later, on August 21, the hearing in the case took an unusual turn as the Supreme Court agreed to transfer his case from the CMM's court to another court. The hearing was adjourned till August 22 in order to enable Mr Rao's counsel to get his

client's instructions. On August 22 the Supreme Court granted another opportunity to Rao to oppose the CMM's order summoning him. On Mr Rao's instruction the Delhi High Court was requested to assign the cheating case to another competent magistrate. The court also granted him exemption from personal appearance till an order was passed on his application.

#### ECONOMY & PLANNING

##### Work on Ninth Plan begins

THE full Planning Commission meeting, held on August 19, 1996, set a broad direction of development of infrastructure and social sectors for the ninth Plan. The Plan approach paper will be presented for approval to the National De-

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

velopment Council (NDC) in December, 1996, for approval. The Plan would probably be presented by April or May 1997.

The Planning Commission members were of the opinion that the Plan must focus on the "delivery and implementation" of social sector programmes. It is now being felt that there is a need to impart realism to planning, i.e. realistic targets need to be set so that they can be easily achieved. The meeting also stressed on additional resource mobilisation and fiscal discipline. Moreover, decentralisation, coupled with efforts by the States to deliver the allocated funds to the designated schemes, is seen as a way of giving the States a bigger say in

planning and formulation of programmes.

Another significant aspect of the discussions was the emphasis that Prime Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda laid on the need to move away from populist measures in planning. He also said that non-tax revenues can be realised by charging a fee for services rendered by the government.

Amongst other plans, greater support to Export Oriented Units (EOUs) has also been promised in the Ninth Plan.

### Blueprint for resurgent India

**P**RIME Minister Mr H.D. Deve Gowda, on August 2, 1996, unveiled a plan for a resurgent new India, offering a better quality of life for its people. The plan is a

part of a package called "Technology Vision 2000". This plan visualises the future for critical areas such as health care, biotechnology, security, agriculture, telecommunications, engineering and power. It has been drawn up by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), led by its chairman and scientific adviser to the Defence Minister, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The idea is to transform India to a technology driven mode.

The government, under this plan, would function by regulation and adopt a promotional role with bureaucrats acting as facilitators rather than administrators. The plan has used dynamic techniques of forecasting such as brainstorming sessions, perspective and scenario reports, the Delphi technique, Nominal Group technique and follow up workshops.

The radical changes that have been planned for government functioning would involve specialised training, re-training and skills development of personnel. The changes are expected to make the government a more informed set up, because of better information gathering which would help improve the decision-making and planning process. This also involves an improvement in primary and secondary education, the development of women, greater investment in science and technology and entrepreneurship for development.

### Kerala's novel venture in planning process

**K**ERALA has once again attracted attention and praise over a novel venture to ensure the participation of people at the grass roots level in the planning process. The campaign for people's plan, as it is called, involves working out the ninth plan of the State with the people themselves identifying and prioritising the schemes they need, and recommending them to the State Planning Board.

The campaign will be carried out in the next five months, through the

## Recent Economic News

### India needs far-reaching reforms: World Bank

In its latest country report, entitled "India—Five years of stabilisation and reform: The agenda ahead", the World Bank has assessed that India needs far-reaching reforms to maintain the economy's current growth rate of six to seven per cent. It says that "sick public enterprises" and "weakened electricity boards are costing India a bundle".

Even with a modest current account deficit of 2 per cent of GDP over the next few years, India would still require gross financing of about \$ 8 billion in 1995-96, the report says. Thereafter, an average of about \$ 13 billion in each of the following four years would be needed, says the report.

The report further adds that in 1993-94 alone, the annual losses of 60 sick public sector enterprises amounted to Rs 3,200 crore at 1994 prices, which is 1.7 times the value of their net fixed assets, while the sick State Electricity Boards cost the States Rs 5,900 crore.

Main highlights of the report are:

**Fiscal adjustment:** Meaningful fiscal adjustment has yet to take place. The current fiscal deficit of the Federal and State governments and the State enterprises is an unsustainable 10 per cent of GDP.

**Liberalisation of the investment regime:** Progress notwithstanding, the remaining licence restrictions mainly to protect small industry, including agro-industry, have considerable negative repercussions. Continuing regulation of the sugar industry is extremely costly.

**Trade and foreign exchange regimes:** India still has the world's highest tariffs.

**Liberalisation of the financial sector:** The government has chosen a phased approach to liberalising the financial sector "but this approach has been excessively gradual in the case of privatisation of the public banks and deregulation of insurance companies and contractual savings institutions". The increased autonomy of financial sector institutions remains in doubt.

**Structural constraints:** Inadequacy of the existing infrastructure is emerging as one of India's most serious constraints to faster growth—and even a constraint to maintenance of the current levels of growth.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

panchayats and nagarpalikas, with the help of a high level guidance council. The council is headed by Marxist leader and first Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad. The 426-member council includes people from various walks of life. Among these are spiritual leader Guru Nitya Chaitanya Yati, sprint queen P.T. Usha, three former Chief Ministers and several leading economists. The Chief Minister formally started the campaign on August 17, 1996, coinciding with the Malayalam new year day.

The campaign was chalked out in view of the State government's decision to earmark 35 to 40 per cent (Rs 5000 crore to Rs 6000 crore) of the Rs 15000 crore ninth plan for the schemes formulated and implemented by the local bodies in their respective areas.

The idea behind such a campaign is that planning cannot be discussed and decided by the State Planning Board and the Central Planning Commission alone. In fact, planning is an important activity in which the local bodies must have a say. Planning has to be made a process for the people, of the people and by the people.

The campaign seeks to take Kerala's development beyond just the social service sectors like education, healthcare and communication. Agriculture and industry have been neglected to some extent and this campaign is an effort to transform the State economy into a modern self-sustaining economy with a strong agricultural and industrial base.

## PUBLIC SECTOR

### Divest panel set up

ON August 7, 1996, the Union government announced the constitution of a five-member Disinvestment Commission to impart transparency in the decision-making and implementation of the disinvestment programme of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The commission will advise the government on the

## Recent Economic News

### Rise in Exemption Limit for power projects

The Union Power Minister, Dr S. Venugopalachari, announced on August 20, 1996, that all power projects with investments of upto Rs 1000 crore, approximating 250 MW capacity will no longer require the mandatory techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The decision to raise the exemption limit from Rs 400 crore to Rs 1000 crore is expected to speed up the setting up of several power plants up to the 250 MW limit. The move is a result of the persistent demand from States for faster clearance of the projects.

The need for a better power policy is reflected more so in the growing demand of power (56,000 MW additional power projected for Ninth Plan) and the present shortage. During the last financial year, the peak power shortage was placed at 18.3 per cent or 11,145 million units. The proposed power policy is also expected to address issues pertaining to the high transmission and distribution losses (20.5 per cent).

modalities of withdrawing the public sector from non-core and non-strategic areas. This panel has been set up under the chairmanship of former member of Planning Commission, Mr G.V. Ramakrishnan.

The resources that will be generated from the disinvestment will mostly be utilised in health and education, especially in the "poorer and backward districts of the country". A part of the revenue will also be used for creating an investment fund, which will be used to "strengthen other public sector enterprises".

The government also aims to transform the existing State-owned companies into enterprises that would be "truly public-owned". This would be on the lines of privatisation exercise conducted in Britain.

Besides the drawing out of detailed disinvestment strategies, the commission would also be concerned with (a) drawing a long-term disinvestment programme within five to ten years for the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) referred to it (b) determining the extent of disinvestment in each PSU (c) prioritising PSUs referred to it by the core group in terms of the overall disinvestment programme (d) recommending the preferred mode of disinvestment (e) supervising the overall sale process and taking decisions on the instrument, as well as pricing (f) selecting the financial advisers

for the specified PSUs to facilitate the disinvestment process (g) ensuring that appropriate measures are taken during the disinvestment process to protect the interests of the affected employees.

## DEFENCE

### Panel recommends extension of TA to Navy, Airforce

THE Territorial Army Review Committee report, released on August 6, 1996, has recommended the setting up of an Indian Territorial Force (ITF) extending to the Air Force and the Navy. The Chairman of the Review Committee, Mr K.P. Singh Deo, also said that they had recommended increased budgetary allocation for the ITF and increasing its strength from the present 40,000 to two lakh by the year 2012.

The report has also suggested fresh legislation providing for proper monitoring and scrutiny of the force and plugging the loopholes in the Indian Territorial Army Act, 1948. There are recommendations concerning creating opportunities in the force for women and making it obligatory for all those who join the government or public sector to serve in the force for two months a year continuously for a period of five years. In fact, the report has expressed displeasure over public sector

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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employees not being allowed to serve in the force even when the employees were very keen to do so. The private sector, on the other hand, needs no compulsion because 90 per cent of the force consists of personnel from the private sector.

#### Missile Research to Continue, says Report

A report released by the Defence Ministry has pointed out that India will continue its indigenous missile development programmes and keep its options open on their deployment as warranted by national security interests. It also says that since the passage of the Brown Amendment by the US Congress has facilitated supply of certain arms, ammunitions and spares to Pakistan, which had been earlier embargoed under the Pressler Amendment, India has no option but to upgrade its own defence capabilities.

Referring to the involvement of the ISI (Inter Services Intelligence) of Pakistan in the disturbances in Kashmir and in north east (through Bangladesh), the report has urged upon all "right thinking nations" to discourage Pakistan from its cross border activities in neighbouring countries. Also of concern is the narco-terrorist connection which encourages a pathway for heroin and hampers development work in north east, thus causing economic difficulties and unemployment. The report has also made mention of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and pointed out that to be meaningful as a disarmament treaty it must be linked to the process of global nuclear disarmament. Without this, the CTBT would only remain an instrument to prevent horizontal nuclear proliferation.

The same is true for the proposed Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). There have been efforts to deny such material, needed by non-nuclear weapon States even for peaceful purposes, whereas

nuclear weapon States already have access to enormous stockpiles of such material.

Although the report has mentioned about the improvements in Sino-Indian relations, it has expressed concern over China's continued defence collaboration with Pakistan, especially the latter's nuclear programme.

#### INDIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral's Visit

THE External Affairs Minister, Mr Inder Kumar Gujral's first bilateral overseas visit after taking charge, to Malaysia and Singapore, was seen as a powerful signal of India's growing intimacy with the ASEAN. The Minister's visit from August 19 to August 21, 1996, came close on the heels of the country's elevation to full dialogue partner status in ASEAN and was in response to invitations extended to him by his counterparts Mr S. Jayakumar of Singapore and Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia.

The visit assumed significance because Singapore and Malaysia are among the top 10 investors in India. India, on its part, is the fifth largest investor in Malaysia with 24 joint ventures in 1995. The total Indian investment in Malaysia, at Rs 14 billion, equals that of Malaysia in India.

Indo-Singapore joint ventures, on the other hand, have gone up to 66. India's trade with Singapore was \$ 3.7 billion last year (Rs 92.5 billion) and with Malaysia \$ 1.4 billion (Rs 49 billion).

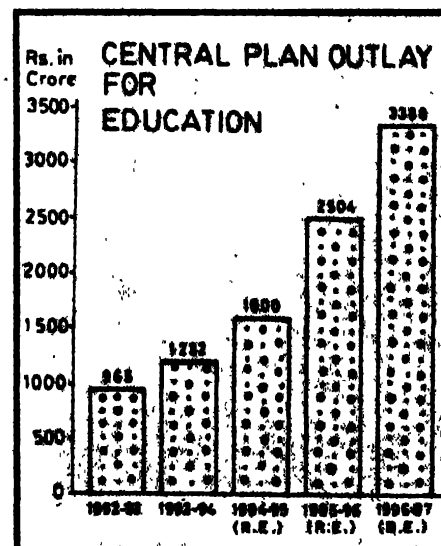
Although the visit was seen more as a goodwill visit, outstanding issues like the TATA-SIA airline project were discussed. The WTO conference, to be hosted by Singapore in December, 1996, also figured in the talks. India and ASEAN share a common viewpoint on the need to avoid

a linkage between trade and issues like human rights, labour standards and corruption.

#### FOREIGN MEDIA Nitish Sengupta Committee Report

THE Nitish Sengupta Committee Report on *Prasar Bharati* was submitted to the Information and Broadcasting Minister in mid-August, 1996. The Committee has pointed out that the panacea for containing obscene movies is providing uplinking facilities to satellite channels and then compelling them to adhere to Indian laws. The report says that by giving uplinking facilities and then controlling the channels, the liquor advertisements, the major money spinners for these channels, can also be banned.

The Committee has also proposed that the Radio and Television Authority should be set-up to grant frequencies and franchises and regulate licenses. This would be an independent authority and not a part of *Prasar Bharati*. In fact, *Prasar Bharati*, being one of the many players in the Indian broadcasting arena, would also be overseen by the authority. It has also been pointed that Indian broadcasters like Jain,



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SUN TV, Asianet, Zee TV, Sony, ATN and BITV, who have been spending crores of rupees in foreign exchange for uplinking from Russia, the Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka, will save foreign exchange for the country if given these facilities from India. Moreover, uplinking and the competition that comes with it, will also improve the quality of Doordarshan programmes in the long run and create opportunities for news and current affairs programmes on foreign networks.

#### Foreign Print media not to be allowed entry

THE United Front government's stand against the entry of the foreign print media has been appreciated and welcomed by major political parties. This has come as a reaction to the CCFI's decision against the proposed tie-up between Ananda Bazar Patrika and Pearson Group of London.

Ananda Bazar Patrika Ltd (ABP) had entered into an agreement with Pearson Group for a joint venture to start a financial and business publication in October 1993. In December same year ABP had filed an application for permission. In September 1994, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry moved cabinet note for review of policy barring foreign investment in media. This note was deferred twice. This year in February ABP sent court notice to Industry Ministry for non-intimation of decision on its proposal despite two years having elapsed. Later, in July, FIPB recommended that the proposal be approved. This was then sent to CCFI for policy decision. Finally CCFI turned down the proposal and instructed the FIPB to review the policy on the entire spectrum of foreign investment in media.

#### JAMMU & KASHMIR Assembly poll schedule announced

THE two Election Commissioners, Dr M.S. Gill and Mr. G.V.G.

Krishnamurthy, announced on August 7, 1996, the poll schedule for the trouble-torn State of Jammu and Kashmir. The four-phased polls would be held on September 7, 16, 21 and 30, to elect 87 members to the House. The last Assembly was dissolved in 1990. The Election Commissioners said that the decision to hold the elections had been taken as a result of the "positive signals" from the State and the success of the recently concluded Parliamentary elections to six seats from the State. The President's rule in the State is to expire on January 17, 1997. The Election Commission said that it was satisfied with the preparations done by J & K administration to hold free and fair polls.

Last elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held for 76 seats. After delimitation of constituencies, the number of seats has been increased to 87. Of these, 46 are in the valley, 37 in Jammu and four in Ladakh.

### KERALA

#### Highest human development rate

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has praised Kerala for sustaining human development through public action. The report pointed out that with a population as large as Canada's and despite decades of low income and low productivity growth, Kerala has made human development gains that outstrip those of other Indian States and many developing countries.

Kerala has kept its rate of human development high by maintaining mass literacy and agrarian reforms, achieving improvements in the status of oppressed castes and enlightened attitudes towards girls' education and status.

Kerala's health indicators are similar to those of high human development countries. Male life expectancy (69 years) is 10 years higher than the Indian average and equal to Hungary's. Female life expectancy (74 years) is 15 years higher than the

Indian average and higher than even Russia's and there are no great disparities between urban and rural areas. Although Kerala is not self-sufficient in food, it has the best public food distribution system. Good nutrition has contributed to good health in the State.

Kerala has benefitted a lot from a strong and consistent political commitment in the State towards education. Second, the breakdown of the oppressive and hierarchial caste culture has also played an important part. Third, a strong peasant movement and the Left-led State government also helped.

The Report also pointed out that the next challenge for Kerala would be to accelerate productivity growth to raise living standards and sustain economic opportunities. The State would need to give attention to the crisis in employment and production.

### UTTAR PRADESH

#### Gowda says yes to Uttarakhand

ON August 15, 1996, in his first independence day speech, Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda sprung a surprise for almost everybody when he announced the government's decision to make a separate State of Uttarakhand, from the hills of Uttar Pradesh. He said that a Bill would soon be introduced in the Parliament for





## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

formation of the separate State. As per constitutional provisions, the Bill would also be placed before the UP Vidhan Sabha, after the ensuing Assembly elections in the State, to elicit its views on the matter.

Uttarakhand, with an area of 51.1 thousand square km and a population of 60.2 lakh, sends four Members of Parliament and 19 MLAs. There are eight Uttar Pradesh districts of Garhwal and Kumaon divisions (Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Nainital, Almora, Pauri, Dehra Dun, Tehri) which are proposed to be given a full Statehood. The announcement regarding this, surprised all political parties but only the CPI(M) has openly opposed it. The BJP initially termed it as an election stunt but later welcomed the move. The Congress has, of late, suggested granting the status of Union Territory to the districts. The Bahujan Samaj Party remained conspicuously silent on the issue. For the former Chief Minister Mr Mulayam Singh Yadav, Uttarakhand, with its predominantly upper caste population, has no charm—it does leave him on a firmer ground in the rest of the plains districts of Uttar Pradesh.

### ALMATTI DAM Row Unabated

THE controversy over the Almatti Dam continues as neither side appears willing to change its stand. This has assumed greater importance for the Central government also because it was reported that the TDP, a constituent of the United Front, might withdraw support to the government, accusing the Centre of partisan attitude.

Prime Minister Mr Deve Gowda convened an emergency meeting of the Chief Ministers of the two States on August 11, 1996, following angry protests by Mr Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, over Karnataka's deci-

sion to raise the dam height. He has repeatedly complained that Karnataka has no right to use the Krishna waters beyond the share allocated by the Bachawat tribunal. While Karnataka Chief Minister has accused Mr Chandrababu Naidu of putting up a political stunt, the latter declared the allegation as "uncharitable".

On August 12, the four-member panel of Chief Ministers constituted to adjudicate the dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, decided to set up a nine-member committee of engineering experts to look into the row. However, the very next day Prime Minister Mr Gowda decided to shelve the proposal. This was a result of an opinion given by the Law Ministry against the setting up of a committee as it might undermine the Bachawat Tribunal Award.

Andhra Pradesh has been basically objecting to the additional height and the enhanced impounding capacity of the dam. The height of the dam is proposed to be increased to 528 metres. This would mean increasing the power generation component from 227 MW to 1000 MW and development of irrigated land in the basin area from 5.85 lakh hectares to 7.60 lakh hectares. The dam had been earlier planned at a height of 519.80 metres with full reservoir level, inclusive of free board, measuring up to 524.256 metres. The original plan had a capacity to store 115 TMC ft. of water. Karnataka, however, decided to increase the height to 528 metres (inclusive of four metre free board) to store additional 112 TMC water and utilise it for power generation.

### INDIA-PAKISTAN New Revelations on Agreement on J & K

DECLASSIFIED US State Department papers of the Kennedy era have re-

vealed that India and Pakistan had tacitly accepted the *de facto* partition of Kashmir along the ceasefire line (now Line of Control). In fact, on the basis that the line would not be disturbed, several major agreements were negotiated in other areas. All this lasted till Ayub Khan took over in Pakistan. There was a conflict between Ayub Khan and Nehru. Although Ayub Khan was prepared for the partition of Kashmir, he wanted the whole Kashmir Valley, all of Ladakh which the Pakistanis claimed was 79 per cent Muslim and part of Jammu. Nehru, on the other hand was prepared to accept the ceasefire line as the international border with minor modifications.

The then US Ambassador to India, Mr J.K. Galbraith, had proposed to divide the Kashmir Valley between India and Pakistan while giving the residents the right to move and trade across the line. India was offered fighter planes and training against Chinese if it agreed to accept the plan.

Kennedy and his administration endeavoured ceaselessly to promote a settlement on Kashmir as part of its grand strategy to sway the sub-continent from communism.

### 1984 RIOTS 88 get five-year jail term

IN a significant hard-hitting judgement, the Additional Sessions Judge of Delhi, Mr S.N. Dhingra, has sentenced 88 persons to five years' rigorous imprisonment, for their involvement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that broke out following the assassination of former Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. Mr Dhingra also passed severe strictures against the then police officers and administrators who, he said, were "clearly guilty of supporting the rioters".



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## INTERNATIONAL

### GULF

#### US missile attacks on Iraq

ON September 3, 1996, the United States launched its fiercest attack on Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war. 27 cruise missiles were fired on military installations near Baghdad. President Bill Clinton of USA also extended the allied-enforced no-fly zone virtually upto the southern suburbs of Baghdad.

A second missile attack was launched on September 4. 17 missiles were fired and it was claimed the Iraqi radar site was crippled.

The UN Security Council also decided to maintain international sanctions against Iraq, for failing to comply with UN resolutions.

A defiant President Saddam Hussain of Iraq reacted to the US action by de-recognising the allied-imposed no-fly zone in the north and south of the country and ordering his troops to shoot down enemy aircraft in the region.

The attacks followed the entry of Iraqi troops into Kurdistan, on August 30, 1996, to crush Iranian-backed separatists in the mountainous enclave protected by US-led forces.

The faction under attack, the Iran-backed Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said Iraqi troops launched a huge tank-led offensive on Arbil, one of Kurdistan's main cities.

The offensive was the largest in five years by President Saddam Hussain's forces. It immediately caused alarm in the United States and the US troops in the Gulf region were put on high alert.

Following the US pressure, Saddam ordered Iraqi troops to withdraw. However, USA was not convinced and ordered missile attacks to assert its authority and to warn Saddam of serious consequences if he did not stop being adventurous.

The US missile attack evolved mixed reaction worldwide. While Japan, Britain and NATO announced their support, Rus-

sia and China viewed the action with concern.

Egypt, a close ally of USA in the Arab world, also expressed concern. The 22-member Arab League "strongly denounced" the US action.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel described the strike as an "appropriate and justified" response to Iraqi military attacks against Kurds. France, however, said that it was "very worried" about the situation.

### NUCLEAR ARMS

#### CTBT: No solution in sight

INDIA has refused to change its stand on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). After negotiators from the US and China cleared a key obstacle to achieving a consensus on the CTBT, objections of India remained the only potential hindrance to reaching the global accord this year. On August 14, 1996, India formally blocked the draft text of the treaty. The draft text says that the pact will become law only after it has been ratified by 44 countries including India. However, India has said that the draft impinges on its sovereign right to act independently in defence of its national security interests. India showed a firm decision of not letting any treaty text to go to the plenary of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

There was a showdown between India and the western countries who tried to force India to publicly veto the text. They felt that while this would prevent the CD from formally approving the accord, it would pave the way for the treaty's sponsors to send the text on their own behalf to the UN General Assembly where they hope it could be opened for signature in late September. India, meanwhile, declared that it would veto any move to send the CTBT to the UN General Assembly. The USA continued with its insistence on the CTBT and ruled out any compromise on the treaty. It also signalled its

opponents to "get out of the way" to ensure the endorsement by the United Nations in September.

Meanwhile, Australia has asked for a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the draft treaty. New Zealand has supported the stand. The focus now has shifted to New York.

According to the Western experts the CTBT is at risk not just because of India's objections but also because of US errors and leadership failures and dubious commitment by other nuclear powers. US President had said that achieving a CTBT was a priority of his administration but arms control experts say that he failed to invest the personal time and the political capital required in the issue. Experts also feel that inspite of political leaders' rhetorical support for the treaty, officials running Russia's atomic programme are loathe to abandon their source of power and foreign capital. China would like to continue testing as it seeks to modernise arsenal Britain is a dependent on US nuclear testing facilities and is ostensibly a supporter of the pact. But, their support has been looked at suspiciously by arms control experts. Many experts feel that in reality Britain, Russia and China also do not want the treaty to come into force.

### WORLD TRADE

#### US Sanctions against nations investing in Iran, Libya

ON August 5, 1996, US President Bill Clinton signed a Bill that envisages sanctions on foreign firms that invest \$ 40 million or more a year in oil and gas projects in Iran or Libya. The sanctions would also be imposed on countries and firms violating UN sanctions against Libya.

The US move invited wrath from a number of countries. France was one of the first to warn the US of a retaliation. This was because France would be one of

the first to be affected by the US sanctions. One of its firms has already signed \$ 600 million deal with Iran last year to develop that country's offshore Sirri oilfields. The French government has a stake in oilfields in Libya also.

Iran reacted angrily to the move by USA and a section of the media in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) accused USA of trying to "bully" Iran. Libya also pointed out that the new US legislation would only hurt the interests of the American people and the European Union. Iran has some moral support from the European Union with Britain, France, Germany expressing disapproval of the US move. While France warned of a EU retaliation, Germany described the US move as a "wrong path" and Britain said that it would consult EU partners on what to do. Significantly, Japan and China also joined chorus against the USA. Japan said that the sanctions were "regrettable" and in violation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Together, Iran and Libya provide a fifth of all crude oil imports to the 15 countries in the European Union. Although the legislation is unlikely to have an immediate effect on oil supplies, constraints on maintenance and investment in the two countries' oil and gas installations would have effects down the road. The sanctions could include denying export licenses for US goods destined for such firms, stopping the companies from supplying the US government or an outright ban on the companies' goods entering the United States.

Close on the heels of the announcement by the US, Iran and Turkey defied the new legislation and signed a \$ 20 billion gas deal. This was significant because Turkey is an ally of the US and a member of NATO. The 22-year agreement would mean that Iran will sell 4 billion cubic metres (140 billion cubic feet) of gas a year to Turkey, beginning in 1998, some observers in the two countries felt that Iran had scored its first victory after the signing of

the Bill since the gas deal fell within the realm of the US law which targetted the energy sector.

The USA imposed sanctions accusing Iran and Libya of supporting and encouraging International terrorism. The move has come on the heels of bombing attacks in Saudi Arabia and Atlanta and the explosion of the TWA flight.

## **RUSSIA**

### **Chechnya: Shaky ceasefire**

CHECHNYA has for long been under the grip of battle between the Russian troops and the separatists. Senior Russian officers declared the situation totally out of control on August 9, 1996, following the trapping of 7000 Russian soldiers by separatists. Chechen rebels had seized part of the government offices and intensive fighting took place.

On August 16, 1996, President Yeltsin appointed security supremo General Alexander Lebed as his representative in Chechnya. Lebed replaced first Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov who had ruled out negotiations with rebel Chief of Staff Aslam Maskhadov. After taking over charge of Chechnya Lebed declared that new talks must resume. On August 17, Lebed and rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev reached an agreement to end fighting in Chechnya and postpone, for the time being, the issue of the republic's status. They also agreed to set up a joint commission to monitor the ceasefire.

On August 23, Russian troops began implementing a disengagement plan in line with the peace agreement for Chechnya. General Lebed warned that violations of the agreement would be dealt with severely.

President Yeltsin, however, expressed unhappiness at General Lebed's handling of the crisis. Till the reports last came, President Yeltsin was yet to endorse the peace accord. President Yeltsin's agreement is vital to the success of the deal.

## **SRI LANKA**

### **President appeals for peace**

THE Sri Lankan President Ms Chandrika Kumaratunga, on August 19, 1996, appealed for peace and unity to end the Tamil separatist war. In a message to mark the second anniversary of her taking office, she said that the objective of her government's war against the separatist LTTE was peace. While she made no reference to the military's worst setback of a loss of a garrison of 1488 men, together with over \$ 50 million worth of weapons, in the north eastern region in July, 1996, she did point out that the capture of Jaffna by the government was the biggest achievement.

The President observed that the reversal of the country's development, increasing inflation and the cost of living, erosion of investor confidence and aggravation of the problems of unemployment are all direct ramifications of the war. Besides economic development, democratic values and basic human freedom also gets endangered.

The Kumaratunga government of a coalition of a few political parties, under the name of 'The People's Alliance' (PA), had begun its office very well in August 1994, extending a hand of friendship to the LTTE, resuming negotiations for a political settlement of the ethnic conflict and restoring democracy. Two years after the government took charge, it appears to be in deep trouble with the war getting out of hand and the economy in shambles with a high cost of living. The government had expected that the all-out war strategy would bring the LTTE down on its knees, forcing it to return to the negotiating table. Divesting the public sector coupled with reduced government expenditure was supposed to have helped in gathering resources. However, the government seems to have overlooked the connection between the war and the economy. In the past one year itself, the war expenditure

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

has increased from SL Rs 28 billion to SL Rs 48 billion. Even the private sector and the foreign investors have preferred to sit it out till the political problems are solved and political stability is achieved.

### SOUTH KOREA

#### Former President Chun sentenced to death

ON August 26, 1996, the former President of South Korea, Mr Chun Doo-Hwan, was sentenced to death by a court for master-minding a military mutiny and an insurrection linked to the infamous Kwangju massacre.

The court also handed down a sentence of 22 years and six months in jail for Roh Tae-Woo, Chun's successor, for his key role in the mutiny and corruption.

The two former heads of State had also been found guilty of taking bribes of more than 600 million dollars between them, while in office between 1980 and 1993.

In the turbulent 50-year history, all former South Korean Presidents have fallen into disgrace or met a tragic death.

First South Korean President, Mr Syngman Rhee, who was elected in 1948, was forced to resign in a popular uprising, led by students, in 1960, after he failed to prolong his tenure through rigged election. He was forced into exile in Hawaii.

The second President, Yoon Bo-Sun, was toppled by a military coup in 1961, led by the then Major General Park Chung-hee. Park stayed in power for 18 years, ruling with an iron-hand, until he was assassinated by his top intelligence official in October 1979.

The power vacuum was filled by Chun and Roh Tae-Woo. Chun had become President in 1980, after suppressing a popular uprising in the southwestern city of Kwangju, which had left more than 200 dead. Amid turbulent pro-democracy protests, he had handpicked Roh as his successor in 1988.

### PAKISTAN

#### Sectarian militancy on the rise

THE month of August witnessed outbursts of tension and violence in Pakistan. On August 14, the country's 49th anniversary of independence, unidentified gunmen attacked a procession of Sunni Muslims and killed about a dozen people. The Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), the party whose activists died in the attack, blamed its rival Shiite party, Teherik-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP) and its militant offshoot the Sipah Mohammed Pakistan (SMP), for the attack. Fears of revenge came true on August 18, when a dozen heavily armed gunmen killed 18 and wounded more than 50 people at a Shiite convention in the Central Punjab province's peaceful Vehari district. Surprisingly, the SSP denied the attack and a new Sunni militant group called the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (force of Jhangvi), apparently named after the SSP's founder, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The militant SSP is said to be a product of this decade only. It has had a phenomenal growth and is the architect of neo-fundamentalism in Pakistan. It was born out of the mainstream Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), in 1984, led by a fire-brand militant who had publicly declared his hatred for Shiites. The SSP formally broke ranks with JUI in late 1980s. The two differed on their views on how an Islamic State should be run, with the SSP being more hard-line.

### USA

#### Change in Welfare System

ON August 23, 1996, President Clinton signed an overhaul of the welfare system that gives States more power, limits eligibility and ends direct Federal aid for poor children. Under the new law introduced, Federal welfare spending is pro-

posed to be cut mainly by reducing funding for the food stamps programme and aid to legal immigrants. Besides, a five-year life time limit has also been imposed on receiving welfare and requires recipients to begin working within two years after receiving benefits. Aid to families with dependent children and smaller programmes are folded into an annual block grant to States to run their own programmes.

While President Clinton termed the change as one that offers hope, honours responsibility, rewards work and changes the terms of the debate, several Democrats and their traditional allies were upset about it. They termed the changes a welfare denial and not welfare reform.

### BANGLADESH

#### Mujib's assassins arrested

ON August 13, 1996, Bangladesh police arrested three retired Army officers allegedly involved in the assassination of the country's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on August 15, 1975. The three officers—Col Faruq-ur-Rahman and Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major Mohammad Khairuzzaman—were arrested from their houses in Dhaka.

The three officers were arrested under the Special Powers Act. They, along with their accomplices, had been given indemnity, by a constitutional amendment, by the then government of late President General Zia-ur-Rahman, in 1979. After the assassination of Sheikh Mujib and other members of his family in 1975, the alleged assassins had been absorbed in the foreign service by the Zia government. However, the Awami League, coming to power after 21 years, has recalled the officers from Bangladesh missions abroad. Out of six such officers, only retired Major Khairuzzaman returned home, claiming that he was not involved in the killing of Sheikh Mujib as he was in a training course abroad during the assas-

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

sination of Mujib.

Just two days after the arrests were made, Bangladesh officially mourned the death of Sheikh Mujib, 21 years after his assassination in a military coup. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Mujib's daughter, said that henceforth August 15 would be known as a "national mourning day."

### AFGHANISTAN

#### Ceasefire between Hekmatyar and Dostum

THE Hekmatyar-led Afghanistan government declared on August 13, 1996, that it had reached a formal ceasefire with one of its most bitter rivals, Gen A.R. Dostum. An attempt by Hekmatyar to assert his authority and win the support of

the Afghan public is seen as the reason behind the pact.

Hekmatyar, who has faced enormous obstacles to the implementation of his policies and plans since taking office, is seen to have scored a personal victory with the pact.

The ceasefire brings along with it a decision to reopen the Salang highway. This road links Kabul with northern Afghanistan and Central Asia. With its reopening, Kabul would be able to get essential food and commodities from Central Asian countries.

### JORDAN

#### Signs of unrest; foreign parties blamed

JORDAN'S King Hussein has alleged that the two-day riots in August, 1996, over

a hike in bread prices in the Kingdom, were provoked by foreign parties who want chaos in the country. He corroborated his allegation by pointing out that the riots in the southern towns of Karak, Mazar, Tafileh and Maan were a planned operation and were the result of very precise schemes. He put the blame on militants who were either trained in Iraq or had sympathies with the government in Baghdad.

Earlier, on August 17, Karak had been put under Army control after hundreds of protestors, angered by a more-than-double increase in bread prices, clashed with the police and set fire to public buildings and banks. The removal of subsidies on bread had been part of an IMF plan arrived at liberalising Jordan's economy to enable it to pay off huge foreign debts and attract investments.

### UN Report on unplanned urbanisation

"The State of World Population", a report of the United Nations Population Fund, points out that increasing unplanned urbanisation, particularly in the developing countries, will have serious implications for the course of many infectious diseases, including AIDS. Acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis and other airborne infections are a major source of mortality and ill-health in rural and urban areas in the developing world. The report has also added that these diseases tend to be more prevalent in urban areas, with the highest incidence occurring in the poorest, most crowded localities. In fact, the emergence of diseases of the immune system, particularly HIV/AIDS, has increased the prevalence of tuberculosis.

It has been found that the high returns of prostitution, compared with other employment, is a strong incentive for some poor young women seeking to support themselves and their family members. This has also led to a steady flow of HIV-infected women back to their villages. Since AIDS affects economically productive adults, it may have serious effects in some rapidly developing countries. Besides the long-term effect of losing so many men and women in their most productive years, there is also the economic effect of the loss of such workers and the cost of replacing them. Social costs include the damage to young families with the loss of one or both parents and the creation of a generation of orphans.

The report also points out that though the widespread use of antibiotics has contributed significantly to better health in the past 40 years, vaccine development has been slower than hoped. Further progress would now depend on ingenuity of researchers and adaptability of disease organisms.

There has been an emphasis in the report on the need for new counter measures in poor urban areas to prevent bacterial resistance from deepening and spreading. Moreover, there is also a need for public health intervention measures in all countries to limit the use of antibiotics. These include better health facilities, better and less crowded housing, cleaner food and water and more efficient waste disposal.

### UNITED NATIONS

#### Budget proposals for 1998-99

THE United Nations introduced its Budget proposals for 1998-99, on August 17, 1996. The Budget calls for a 6.9 per cent decrease on the current two-year Budget for 1996-97. The proposed amount for the 1998-99 budget is \$ 2.4 billion, which is \$ 178.9 million less than the current \$ 2.6 billion. The savings are proposed to be made by producing the same output with fewer staff (leading to a 15 per cent cut in the 10,000 staff jobs since January 1996) and by improving administrative processes.

Although the USA welcomed these changes, it is unlikely that this will make the country change its opposition to the re-election of the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The decision to veto Boutros-Ghali's candidacy for a second term is, apparently, in part to deflect criticism from the Republican Party that President Bill Clinton was subordinating US power to the UN.

# Current General Knowledge

## ABBREVIATIONS

CD: Conference on Disarmament

WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organisation

## AWARDS

### G.D. Birla Award 1994 and 1995

THE 1994 G.D. Birla Award has been presented to Padmanabhan Balaram, Professor of Molecular Biophysics at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The 1995 award has been presented to Girish Saran Agarwal, Director, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad. The award carries a plaque, citation and a cheque of Rs 1.5 lakh.

### Kirti Chakra and Vir Chakra 1996

POOJARI Manikyam of Andhra Pradesh (posthumous) has been awarded the Kirti Chakra while Capt Sahil Sharma, Artillery, and Hav Surender Singh of Garhwal Rifles (both posthumous) have been awarded the Vir Chakra.

### Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

FORMER world champion Karnam Malleswari, who played a major role in bringing Indian women in international weightlifting, has been conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 1994-95. The award carries a medal, a scroll of honour and Rs 1 lakh.

### Sarabhai Awards

SIX scientists have been selected for the Hari Om Prerit Vikram Sarabhai Awards, carrying a medal and a cash prize of Rs 25,000. They are: N. Balakrishnan of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Bidyut B. Chaudhari of Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta; Nagesh N. Rao of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad; Maddali Vivekanand of the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune; K. Nagachenchiah of the Space Application

Centre, Ahmedabad and Y.N. Bhushan of the Indian Space Research Organisation. The awards have been instituted by Hari Om Ashram, Nadiad in the memory of Vikram Sarabhai, founder of Physical Research Laboratory.

### Shankar Puruskar 1995

THE 1995 award has been given to Yashdev Shalya, Director of *Darshan Pratishthan*, Jaipur, for his book *Moolyatatwa*. The award carries a plaque, citation and cheque for Rs 1.5 lakh.

## BOOKS

### Between Hope and History

WRITTEN by US President Bill Clinton, the new book is being described as "his vision for the nation". Subtitled 'Meeting America's Challenges', the book presents Clinton's political philosophy and policies.

## CYBERSPACE

### Making calls through the Internet

A small company in the United States, Labs of Advanced Technology International Corporation, has developed a new technology to make long distance calls over the Internet using the ordinary telephone, at an extremely low price.

While it is already possible for those with compatible equipment to make practically free telephone calls to anywhere in the world over the Internet, the latest development is an improvement because it needs no special equipment.

The typical Internet system requires callers to have high end computers, Internet accounts and special software-barriers that, so far, have made free Internet calling limited to hobbyists.

Labs makes the service potentially available to anyone: Customers would merely call a central number, then dial their long-distance number. The call is

carried on the Internet, then put back onto the local phone system at its destination.

## DEFENCE

### 'Nishant' test flight is successful

INDIA has successfully flight-tested its first Unmanned Air Vehicle, (UAV), christened *Nishant*. The UAV is designed to perform discrete aerial reconnaissance of the battlefield, including target acquisition. Test flights of *Nishant* were conducted on August 20 and 21, 1996, at Kolar near Bangalore.

The flight trials demonstrated *Nishant's* capabilities in accurate navigation to designed target points and in flying extended missions lasting several hours with electro-optic and photographic payloads.

### Siachen operations to be listed in Guinness Book

TWELVE years after it was launched, Operation Meghdoot remains the longest, highest and most expensive air maintenance operation anywhere in the world. World-level recognition is finally in the pipeline with the Guinness Book of Records having decided to publish a part of this operation in its 1997 edition.

Recognition will be accorded to the Leh-based 114 helicopter unit, nicknamed Siachen Pioneers, which has regularly been utilising the French originated Cheetah helicopters up to its maximum operating altitude. For over a decade-and-a-half, pilots of this squadron have been landing at posts located above 18,000 feet in the Siachen glacier. The helipads at most of these posts are barely three square metres in size and routinely come under fire from Pakistani army positions across the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL).

The cost of air maintenance opera-

tions for troops on the Siachen glacier works out to a daily average of Rs 2.5 crore or approximately Rs 1,000 crore a year.

The Siachen Pioneers comprises purely of volunteer pilots. The list of the occupational hazards includes extreme cold ranging from minus 40 to five degrees celsius, operating in mountainous terrain averaging between 15,000 to 24,000 feet, hypoxia, white out, glare and fatigue.

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

**N-reactor 'Apsara' completes forty years**

**A** SIA'S first and completely indigenous nuclear reactor, *Apsara*, which laid the foundation of nuclear research in India, has completed 40 years. Located at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), *Apsara* is the only "swimming pool" type nuclear reactor in the country. It is very functional even today and has been steadily operating at 500 KW.

Swimming pool reactors are so named because the core of the reactor, consisting of enriched uranium fuel elements, is immersed in an open pool of ordinary water.

A committee of experts had been appointed ten years ago to report about the state of the reactor, which, it was felt, had outlived its longevity. However, the committee as well as scientists who were using the reactor for research purpose, recommended against decommissioning it and so *Apsara* continues to live.

Besides the Tarapore Atomic Power Plant, *Apsara* is the only other reactor in the country which is fuelled by enriched uranium.

## PROJECTS

**Conserving folk healing systems**

**A** strategy to conserve the popular but undocumented tribal and folk healing systems of India and neighbouring Asian countries has been launched in Delhi.

Several government and non-government organisations from the South Asian region are joining hands in this venture which is supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Canadian government body fund-

ing development research in the third world.

Tribal and folk medicinal practices have medicinal herbs and other forest products as their base and comprise the largest part of primary health care in South Asia even today. Most of these healing systems, practised by over 2,000 different tribal groups and millions among the rural population, remain undocumented and not well understood. Many of these traditional healing practices are handed from one generation to the next through folk songs or oral traditions. These are different from other Asian healing systems like *Ayurveda*, *Unani*, *Sidha*, Tibetan and Chinese systems of medicines.

The IDRC Medicinal Plants Network (IMPEN) will ensure that these traditional medicinal plant-based healing systems were not taken away by trade interests. If necessary, the IMPEN would secure patents for these healing ingredients and systems and ensure that the repository people and the community got the commercial benefit in case there was a revenue generation from such patenting.

**Plan to exploit uranium deposits**

**A** TOMIC Minerals Division (AMD), a unit of the department of atomic energy in Hyderabad, has drawn up an ambitious programme to exploit concealed uranium deposits in the country through state-of-the-art technology.

This would put India among the selected few countries in the world which have the capability to take up such exploration.

Australia, Canada, Russia and United States are the other countries which had taken up exploratory work, leading to the discovery of mineral deposits of considerable economic signification.

Concealed deposits were likely to be located in the 2,200 million to 640 million-year-old proterozoic basins. Cuddapah and Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh, Bhima and Kaladgi in Karnataka, Bastar, Chindwada, Sambalpur and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, Deogarh in Orissa and Aravalli in Rajasthan are expected to yield concealed deposits of uranium and other

minerals.

Remote sensing, air-borne magnetic and radio metric survey datas would extensively be used for digital image processing to select suitable areas within the basins for detailed geo-physical exploration by transient electromagnetic induced polarisation and self-potential techniques.

## RESEARCH

**New electronic chip developed**

**A** handful of chipmakers are striking it rich by giving many new electronics products the 'gas'—the industry's nickname for gallium arsenide (chemical notation: GaAs)—a semiconductor material inherently much faster than silicon.

At first, 'gas' found eager customers among military and aerospace companies, which were willing to pay double—or even much more—to bypass silicon's speed limits in microwave communications and radars. Later, supercomputer companies realised that GaAs chips could speed up their next generation computers. But Intel reduced the prices of silicon microprocessors so much that it was cheaper to boost speed with multiple silicon chips instead.

Gallium arsenide's resurgence stems from an ever expanding profusion of applications, as telecom companies launch new wireless services. Gallium arsenide also has a higher signal-to-noise ratio, which means cellphones can go farther from their base stations. GaAs chips also consume less power, so wireless models can have smaller batteries or offer longer battery life.

## SPACE

**Evidence of Life on Mars claimed**

**S** SCIENTISTS claim to have found evidence that life existed on the planet Mars.

Exhaustive study of a small meteorite, slightly larger than a cricket ball, has showed up what could be fossils of tiny extraterrestrial organisms, leading scientists to believe that primitive microscopic life existed on Mars 3.6 billion years ago. The evidence was exciting, even compelling, but not conclusive.



The evidence could also recharge a flagging American space exploration programme. President Clinton went live on television to hail the breakthrough, calling it a "discovery of vindication of the American space programme", and indicating renewed funding.

According to NASA, the evidence was found in meteorite called Allan Hills 84001, discovered by meteorite hunters in 1985 but only recently confirmed as Martian. Scientists say the meteorite crystallised from molten rock, an estimated 4.5 billion years ago, when Mars, was still being formed and debris flew through the solar system. ALH 84001 was blown into space some 15,000 million years ago when a large asteroid struck Mars, and it crashed into the Antarctic some 13,000 years ago.

**Scientific missions to Mars planned:** Electrified by research suggesting that Mars may once have harboured life, America's space agency NASA is gearing up for a scientific mission to the red planet.

Two American spacecraft, a lander and an orbiter, are planned for launch and eight more craft, two every other year, will rocket toward Mars within a decade.

In addition, Russia will launch Mars '96 this year. Japan too will send a mission in 1998.

**Scientists doubt US theory on Mars:** China poured scorn on the US announcement of fossilised evidence of life on Mars, saying an increasing number of scientists have stopped believing American sensational discoveries.

After the fake research findings by two American scientists in discovering cold fusion a few years ago, the official Xinhua news agency said, more and more scientists across the world have begun to doubt the sensational scientific discoveries made over the last few years by the US.

Geologists from all over the world reports that a meteorite that fell onto Antarctica 13,000 years ago holds the remains of single-cell life on Mars, since US scientists have given little evidence that the meteorite came from Mars.

Many scientists agreed that life on or in the meteorite would be destroyed as it passed through the earth's atmosphere.

The dispute over the potatoesized rock is only the latest in a string of claims and counter-claims.

#### **Japan's indigenous rocket blasts off**

**J**APANESE H-2 rocket blasted off from the southern island of Tanegashima on August 17, 1996 and successfully put an earth-observation satellite into orbit in a joint mission with the United States and France.

The \$ 1.2 billion project marked the fourth mission for the entirely Japanese-made spacecraft.

With four successful launches and no failures over the past two-and-a-half years, the latest H-2 mission also marked a new milestone for Japan's space programme, which envisages another four H-2 launches over the next three years.

The Advanced Earth Observing Satellite, known as ADEOS, is the largest satellite launched by Japan and one of the world's biggest earth-observation satellites. It is equipped with earth-observation sensors developed by national space agencies of France, Japan and the United States.

#### **MISCELLANY**

##### **Book shops at your doorstep**

**M**OBILE book shops are being introduced in India, initiating the reading public to a much larger area with much more ease.

These mobile exhibitions will reach readers in far off localities where there are no good showrooms for books, according to the National Book Trust (NBT). They bring books at the doorstep of an avid reader.

The NBT's summer book fair is organised to coincide with the summer vacations. Shops are set up at vantage points like market places on designated days which are made known through advertisements. Readers can examine various books and buy them.

The exhibitions are not business

propositions and the revenue from sales is far short of production costs. But the aim is to make books accessible to everyone, according to the NBT.

#### **World's largest book shop in Delhi soon**

**D**ELHI will soon have the world's largest book shop, with over 50,000 titles on display and sale, according to the National Book Trust (NBT).

Spread over an area of 8,000 square feet, this shop, perhaps the only one of its kind in the world, will have books in all Indian languages under one roof.

Another significant feature of this 'permanent book fair' would be its 'book club' which would enrol members from across the country. Besides providing good books to readers at reasonable price, the club would also ensure guaranteed clientele to the hundreds of publishers who would set up their stalls in the shop.

NGOs engaged in spread of literacy and reading habits would get priority in allocation of stalls. The project, a totally self-financed project of NBT, coming up near the posh Vasant Vihar area of the Capital, is expected to be completed within two years.

#### **US to produce most advanced computer system**

**I**BM, the world's largest computer manufacturer, has been given the go ahead by President Bill Clinton to produce the world's most advanced computer system, powerful enough to simulate nuclear explosions.

The 60-million pound sterling computer, which is expected to be completed by 1988, is estimated to be 300 times more powerful than any existing machine and would enable nuclear weapon States to simulate tests after the new Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) comes into force.

IBM won the contract and is basing the system on 'IBM servers' that ran the just concluded Atlanta Olympic games results service. These computers are capable of ten trillion calculations per second.



# SPORTS

## ATHLETICS

### Atlanta Paralympics 1996

3,500 disabled athletes from 120 countries took part in the Paralympics, held at Atlanta, USA, soon after the 1996 Olympics were over. Sporting achievements reached new heights in these games.

The next Paralympic Games will be held in Sydney in 2000.

## BILLIARDS

### 28th International Billiards Championship

MIKE Russell, the world No. 1, won the Championship and was crowned the International Billiards and Snooker Federation's World Champion. The event was held at the Nalco Auditorium in Bhubaneswar.

## CHESS

### First live Chess contest of its kind

ANATOLY Karpov beat around 250 contestants from all over the world in just 32 moves. While Karpov sat in a Helsinki hotel, his chess board moves were transferred to virtual board on surfer's screens *via* Internet. The most popular moves of the world contestants was then computed as the chosen response, and carried out on Karpov's board.

## CRICKET

### Indian Colts win world title

INDIA won the inaugural Lombard World Challenge Cricket Cup (under-15) with a four-wicket triumph over arch-rival Pakistan in the final at Lord's in England.

### Pakistan-England

MUSHTAQ Ahmed and Wasim Akram confirmed their status as two of the world's great match-winning bowlers, when they administered Pakistan's 2-0 Test series victory over England.

In the third and final test at Oval

Mushtaq's spinners claimed six wickets for 78, while Wasim Akram took three for 67 and became the 11th bowler in Test history to reach the mark of 300 wickets.

## FOOTBALL

### Kalyani Black Label Federation Cup Football Championship

RAMAN Vijayan guided the Calcutta giants East Bengal, to win the Championship with a 2-1 victory.

## POWERLIFTING

### Senior National Powerlifting Championship

20-year old Loganathan of Tamil Nadu clinched the gold medal in the 52-kg class. He won a total of 532.5-kg in squat, bench press and dead lift. His squat total of 210 kg has been a record lift in the country.

Kerala's Skipper B. Minikumari set four records in the 44-kg category.

In the women's 60-kg class, Madhumati Khatko of Maharashtra bagged the gold, breaking a record in her total of 412.5 kg. In the same category, Geeta Dongree of Madhya Pradesh won the silver.

In the 67.5-kg class the gold, silver and bronze medal winners were—Asha Poojari of Maharashtra, Tapasi Dutta from Delhi, and Malathi Ghosh of West Bengal.

In the 90-kg category for men, Paramjit Singh Saini of Punjab claimed the gold medal, setting four records.

In the overall championship, Kerala was the winner, followed by Maharashtra and Punjab.

V. Lokanathan of Tamil Nadu and Sarala Shetty of Banking Services Board were declared the strong man and strong woman of India, respectively.

## SAILING

### President Laser Association trophy RAMASWAMY Mahesh of Naval Sailing

Club, Mumbai, lifted the trophy after he won the 11th National Regatta Championship at the Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad. Mahesh is a 29-year old Naval Pilot who has won the national title for the third time in succession.

## SHOOTING

### World record by young Indian

ABHINAV Bindra, a class IX student, created a sensation at the Patiali Rao Shooting Ranges, when he scored a maximum possible of 600/600 in the 177 Air Rifle (ISU) category. He has set a world record by beating the earlier record of 597/600 scored by Wolfram Wibel in the World Shooting Championship in Munich. Wibel also holds the current Olympic record of 596/600.

Bindra has also surpassed the junior world record in air pistol category.

He is also the first subjunior in the world to surpass the world record for senior men at the age of 13 years.

## TENNIS

### Hong Kong Bank Junior National hard court championship

UZMA Khan of Andhra Pradesh won both the girls under-18 singles and doubles title in the Championship held at Madras.

In the singles final, Uzma beat V. Archana of Karnataka to win the set and match 6-0, 6-3.

### Canadian Open, 1996

MONICA Seles successfully defended her title when she defeated second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) in the final played at Montreal.

### ATP event

ANDRE Agassi overpowered Michael Chang 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 to claim his second consecutive title at the \$ 2.2 million event held at Mason.

# Question Box

**Q. Which are the good institutes for doing a post graduate diploma in Human Resource management?**

—*R. Srilatha, Pondicherry*

A. We are often asked to recommend institutes for some course or the other. *The Competition Master* cannot make a distinction between good and bad institutes; what would matter is: a) whether the institute has a professionally qualified faculty, b) the jobs it can get for its students and c) its reputation among professionals, students and industry. Based on this criteria, we suggest you scan the newspapers for admission notices and make an assessment for yourself. One yardstick that can be used is whether the institute has AICTE recognition, though a number of questionable institutes have managed to get this accreditation. The decision to do a course from a particular institute is thus individual and would vary from person to person.

**Q. I am doing my BBM, ICWA and a course in computers. Will I be able to get a good job?**

—*Vijay Kumar, Bangalore*

A. With so many qualifications, we are sure that you will be able to get a good job.

**Q. What is liquidity crunch?**

—*Nanda Lal Biswal, Tanwat (Orissa)*

A. When a company has less liquid resources, meaning such assets that can easily be converted into cash, it is said to go through a liquidity crunch. When it reaches a state where it has no money to carry on day to day business and cash realisations are less, it is said to be in a liquidity trap.

**Q. What is the difference between trade mark and copyright?**

—*Srinivas Prasad Nainala, Chirala (AP)*

A. A trade-mark is a registered design or name used to identify a manufacturer's

goods. A copyright, on the other hand, is an exclusive legal right, held for a certain number of years, to print, publish, sell, broadcast, perform or record an original work or any part of it.

**Q. I am doing a course in HRD. Please suggest some periodicals for keeping up-to-date knowledge in this field.**

—*G.B. Chandra, Begumpet (AP)*

A. There are a number of business magazines available which cover HRD cases and news. Management journals will also be useful to you. Apart from this, many foreign journals on HRD are also available. We suggest that you check out from a news agency in a big city which may be stocking such journals, or become a member of a management library.

**Q. I want to open a dairy farm. How can I know about it?**

—*Anurag Misra, Cuttack (Orissa)*

A. To start a modern dairy plant, you should try to get training from the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) or a modern dairy farm in your area. Some co-operative societies also have modern facilities. Once you have the technology, you can arrange to invest and open a modern dairy plant.

**Q. How much time should be spent in preparations for competitive exams?**

—*Rohina Mittal, Jaitu (Punjab)*

A. The length of the time put in is not important, but the quality of time that you put in. Ideally, you should study for short durations (45 min-1 hr) and take a break after that. This will ensure that you are fresh and alert. The number of such sessions that you can put in depends on the type of exam and how much course is to be covered.

**Q. Can I appear in bank PO or civil services exams after BBM?**

—*Bhupendra Sharma, Udaipur (Raj)*

A. Since it is a recognised graduate course, it has nothing that could disqualify you from appearing in PO or IAS exams.

**Q. How should I prepare for MCA entrance exams?**

—*Sonu Sadan, Kathua (J & K)*

A. You will get some sample questions from the institute when you apply for the MCA. This should give you a fairly good idea about the exam and you can prepare accordingly.

**Q. What is the difference between confidence and overconfidence?**

—*Gaurav Sharma, Hyderabad (AP)*

A. If you have trust in your own ability, you have confidence. When this trust is not based on a proper assessment of ability, you may be suffering from over-confidence.

**Q. In the context of progressive liberalisation, do you think that there is any need for retaining the Planning Commission?**

—*Atanu Majhi, 24 Parganas (WB)*

A. Many economists feel that with increased liberalisation, the Planning Commission is defunct. Moreover, since government spending cannot be controlled and the State continues to spend on non-productive items of expenditure, plans just remain on paper. Politicians too habitually spend in excess of plan allocations. Thus it is felt that the Planning Commission could be dispensed with. However, the government uses it to give employment to bureaucrats and politicians who cannot be accommodated elsewhere, so it is unlikely that it would be dismantled in the near

future.

**Q. I want to take part in chess competitions but there is no such facility in my town. How can I develop this hobby and game?**

—Ritesh Khanna, Shimla (HP)

**A.** It would be ideal if you form a club with some friends for playing chess. You can charge a small fee with which you can buy prizes for chess tournaments. As your club grows, you can organise inter-school competitions and even an inter-State tournament. This is the way that local clubs usually grow and begin to make a mark on the national scene.

**Q. I have done my B.Com (Hons) with 48% marks. Is percentage important for job interviews?**

—Mihir Roy Gupta, Jamshedpur (Bihar)

**A.** Percentage is usually an important criteria for most jobs. If you have other skills or experience, it might be overlooked, but if you are a fresher you will surely be asked about it.

**Q. Most computer institutes say that their courses are equivalent to B.Tec/B.E. Is that true? Will I get a good job after doing an expensive course in a famous private institute or will I get stranded in lower end jobs?**

—Sandeep Mookerjee, Allahabad (UP)

**A.** Computer courses from private institutes are not equivalent to B.Tech/B.E. in spite of their claims. If you want to pursue a career in computers and want to be in a senior position, you should do MCA from a reputed Institute or University.

**Q. Why is it necessary to have maths to do Economics Honours?**

—Anita Tagore, Calcutta

**A.** In economics, mathematical models have to be made and understood. That is the reason that maths is considered necessary for studying the subject.

**Q. What is Cyberspace?**

—Kanu Bhusan Das, Salema (Tripura)

**A.** Please refer to our cover story in September 95 issue which will answer your query in detail.

**Q. I want to become a playback singer. How can I become one?**

—Rajeev Kumar, Patna (Bihar)

**A.** You should develop your art and look for opportunities to exhibit it. Approach the local radio and television station for a chance. Also enter the competitions organised by different music companies where they look for fresh talent. If you are good, you will definitely get a chance to become rich and famous.

**Q. What is the difference between NPT and CTBT?**

—P. Mohana Rao, Tekkali (AP)

**A.** The NPT stops nuclear proliferation among member States while the CTBT bans nuclear testing.

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# Quantitative Aptitude

**Income Tax and Central Excise Inspectors' Exam**  
held on the 28th April, 1996

1. Let  $m$  and  $n$  be the two whole numbers. If  $m^n = 25$  the value of  $n^m$  is

- (a) 4 (b) 10 (c) 25 (d) 32

2. The square of a natural number subtracted from its cube is 48. The number is

- (a) 6 (b) 5 (c) 4 (d) 8

3. The marked price of an article is 40% above the cost price. The discount that may be allowed to make a profit of 12% is

- (a) 52% (b) 24% (c) 14% (d) 20

4. The total population of a city is 2,40,000 out of which 1,32,000 are males. Out of every 100 males, 90 can read and write but only 64% of the total population can do so. The percentage of women that can read and write is

- (a)  $29\frac{9}{10}$  (b) 26 (c)  $32\frac{2}{9}$  (d)  $16\frac{1}{3}$

5. An equilateral triangle of side 6 cm has its corners cut off to form a regular hexagon. The area of this hexagon is

- (a)  $6\sqrt{3}$  sq cm (b)  $3\sqrt{3}$  sq cm  
(c)  $3\sqrt{6}$  sq cm (d)  $5\sqrt{3}$  sq cm

6. A man invested a certain sum of money at 5% per annum simple interest. After 6 months, he invested an equal sum at 6% per annum simple interest. When the amount in each case became Rs 2,700, he withdrew the money. The sum invested in each case was

- (a) Rs 1,500 (b) Rs 1,800  
(c) Rs 2,000 (d) Rs 2,200

7. If \* means add the first number to 6 times the second number then

- (1 \* 2) \* 3 equals  
(a) 121 (b) 31 (c) 93 (d) 91

8. A conical flask with base radius  $r$  and height  $h$  is full of water. Its water is poured into a cylindrical flask of base-radius  $mr$ . The height to which the water will rise in the cylindrical flask is

- (a)  $3m^2h$  (b)  $\frac{h}{3m^2}$  (c)  $\frac{mh}{3}$  (d)  $\frac{3h}{m}$

9. Find a four-digit perfect square number whose first two digits and last two digits taken separately also represent perfect square numbers

- (a) 1681 (b) 1636 (c) 3664 (d) 6481

10. The price of cooking gas having increased by 25%, the percentage of reduction that a family should effect in the

use of cooking gas so as not to increase its expenditure on this account is

- (a) 15 (b) 20 (c) 25 (d) 30

11. The tax on an article is decreased by 15% and its consumption increases by 20%. The effect on the revenue derived from it is

- (a) 5% increase (b) 2% increase  
(c) 5% decrease (d) 2% decrease

12. The rainwater from a flat rectangular roof, 5 meters by 6 meters, drains into a tank 1 meter deep and of base area 12 sq meters. What amount of rainfall will fill the tank?

- (a) 12 cm (b) 2 cm (c) 2.5 cm (d) 4 cm

13. By selling 144 tin boxes, Kamal suffered a loss equal to selling price of 6 boxes. If the total cost price of the boxes is Rs 7,200, the selling price of a box is

- (a) Rs 40 (b) Rs 38 (c) Rs 48 (d) Rs 50

14. A man blends two varieties of coffee, one costing Rs 22 per kg and the other Rs 26 per kg in the ratio 6 : 5. He sells the blended variety at Rs 24.50 per kg. Find the gain or loss per cent, correct to 2 decimal places

- (a) 2.86% gain (b) 2.56% gain  
(c) 2.36% loss (d) 2.86% loss

15. A candle 8 cm long burns at the rate of 3 cm in 2 hours. Another candle  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cm long burns at the rate of 2 cm in 3 hours. The time, after which both the candles will be of same length, is

- (a)  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours (b) 2 hours  
(c)  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours (d) 3 hours

16. A sum of money invested at compound interest amounts to Rs 5,850 at the end of two years and to Rs 5,908.50 at the end of 3 years. The rate per cent per annum is

- (a) 12 (b) 11 (c) 10 (d) 9

17. Naresh bought an article for Rs 240 and marked its price 20% above the cost price. He sold the article for Rs 264 after allowing a certain discount on the marked price. The discount allowed by him was

- (a)  $8\frac{1}{4}\%$  (b)  $8\frac{1}{3}\%$  (c)  $8\frac{2}{3}\%$  (d)  $8\frac{1}{2}\%$

18. A sum of money is lent out at compound interest for 2 years at 20% per annum. It would fetch Rs 482 more if the interest is compounded half-yearly than if it were compounded yearly. The sum of money is

- (a) Rs 20,000 (b) Rs 22,000  
(c) Rs 24,000 (d) Rs 25,000

19. If a man walks to work and rides back home, the entire trip takes him an hour and a half. When he rides both ways, it takes him 30 minutes only. How long would he take to make the round trip if he walks both ways?

- (a) 1.5 hours (b) 2 hours  
(c) 2.5 hours (d) 3 hours

20. A and B entered into a partnership by investing Rs 40,000 and Rs 50,000 respectively. After 3 months C also joins the business with an investment of Rs 60,000 whereas B withdraws Rs 10,000 from the business. They had a profit of Rs 51,000 after one year. The share of C in the profit exceeds that of B by:

- (a) Rs 500 (b) Rs 1,000 (c) Rs 1,500 (d) Rs 2,000

21. A college library gets a discount of 15% from the publisher if the library buys books worth more than Rs 5,000. The library also gets another discount of 5% for cash payment. If the books worth Rs 8,000 were bought and paid in cash, how much did the library have to pay?

- (a) Rs 5,280 (b) Rs 6,460  
(c) Rs 6,800 (d) Rs 6,880

22. Instead of dividing Rs 117 among A, B and C in the ratio  $\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{3} : \frac{1}{4}$ , I divided the sum in the ratio 2 : 3 : 4. Who gained the most and by what amount?

- (a) A; Rs 28 (b) B; Rs 3  
(c) C; Rs 20 (d) C; Rs 25

23. A can do as much work in 3 days as C in 4 days and B does as much in 5 days as C in 6 days. If A completes a work in 18 days, the number of days in which B will be able to complete the work, is:

- (a) 12 (b) 15 (c) 18 (d) 20

24. The ratio of the first class railway fare to the second class fare between two stations is 4 : 1 and that of the number of passengers travelling between the two stations by first class to that of passengers travelling by second class is 1 : 40. If in a day, Rs 1,100 is collected from passengers travelling between the two stations by the railways, the amount collected from the second class passengers is:

- (a) Rs 450 (b) Rs 500  
(c) Rs 750 (d) Rs 1,000

25. Anand can do a piece of work in 16 days and Bala can do it in 10 days. They started the work together. But Bala had to leave the work 3 days before the completion of the work. The whole work was completed in:

- (a) 8 days (b) 5 days  
(c) 10 days (d) 9 days

26. A, B and C are on a trip by car. A drives during the first hour at an average speed of 50 km/hour. B drives during the next two hours at an average speed of 48 km/hour. C drives for the next three hours at an average speed of 52 km/hour. They reached their destination after exactly six hours. Their mean speed (in km/hour) was:

- (a) 50 (b)  $50\frac{1}{3}$  (c)  $51\frac{1}{3}$  (d) 52

27. The wages of labourers in a factory has increased in the ratio 22 : 25 and their number decreased in the ratio 15 : 11. What was the original wage bill of the factory if the present wage bill is Rs 5,000?

- (a) Rs 4,400 (b) Rs 6,000  
(c) Rs 5,500 (d) Rs 6,600

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (d)  $m^n = 25 = 5^2$ ,  $m = 5$ ,  $n = 2$   $n^m = 2^5 = 32$
- (c)  $x^3 - x^2 = 48 \Rightarrow x^2(x - 1) = 4^2 \times 3 = 4^2(4 - 1) \therefore x = 4$
- (d) Let CP = Rs 100, P = 12%  
 $\therefore$  S.P. =  $100 + 12 = \text{Rs } 112$   
M.P. =  $100 + 40 = \text{Rs } 140$   
 $\therefore$  Discount =  $140 - 112 = 28$   
Discount% =  $\frac{28}{140} \times 100 = 20\%$
- (c) Females =  $240000 - 132000 = 108000$   
Persons who can read and write =  $\frac{64}{100} \times 240000 = 153600$   
Males who can write and read =  $\frac{90}{100} \times 132000 = 118800$   
 $\therefore$  Females who can read and write =  $153600 - 118800 = 34800$   
Reqd. %age of women =  $\frac{34800}{108000} \times 100 = \frac{290}{9} = 32\frac{2}{9}$
- (a) Each int. angle of a regular hexagon =  $120^\circ$   
 $\therefore \angle 1 = 60^\circ$ ,  $\angle A = 60^\circ$   
 $\therefore$  Corners cut off from an equilateral  $\Delta$  to form a regular hexagon will also form 3 small equilateral  $\Delta$ s  
 $\therefore 3x = 6 \Rightarrow x = 2$   
Side of a regular hexagon = 2  
Area of this hexagon =  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot (\text{side})^2 = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \times 2^2 = 6\sqrt{3}$  sq cm
- (c) Let us suppose that after time  $t$  the amount in each case becomes = Rs 2300  
ATS  $P + P \times \frac{5}{100} \times t = P + P \times \frac{6}{100} (t - \frac{1}{2}) = 2300$   
On solving  $t = 3$  years  $\therefore P[1 + \frac{5}{100} \times 3] = 2300$   
 $\therefore P = 2300 \times \frac{100}{115} = \text{Rs } 2000$
- (b)  $(1 * 2) * 3 = (1 + 6 * 2) * 3 = 13 * 3 = 13 + 6 * 3 = 31$
- (b)  $\pi(mr)^2 H = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h \Rightarrow H = \frac{h}{3m^2}$
- (a)
- (b) Reduction in consumption =  $\frac{25}{100 + 25} \times 100 = 20\%$
- (b) Revenue = Tax  $\times$  Consumption  
If tax and consumption both be 100%, the new revenue =  $85\% \times 120\% = 102\%$

∴ Increase = 2%

12. (d)  $5 \times 6 \times h = 1.2 \times 1 \Rightarrow h = \frac{1}{25} = 0.4 \text{ m} = 4 \text{ cm}$

13. (c)  $SP = CP - \text{Loss}$

S.P. of 144 boxes = CP of 144 boxes - SP of 6 boxes

∴ S.P. of 150 boxes = Rs 7200

∴ S.P. of 1 box =  $\frac{7200}{150} = \text{Rs } 48$

14. (a) Let the total quantity of coffee be  $11x \text{ kg}$

$P = S.P. - C.P.$

$P = 24.50 \times 11x - (6x \times 22 + 5x \times 26)$

$= 269.50x - 262x = 7.50x$

$P\% = \frac{7.5x}{262x} \times 100 = \frac{750}{262} = 2.86$

15. (d) Let the time after which both candles will be of same length be  $t \text{ hrs}$

∴ A.T.S.  $8 - \frac{3}{2}t = \frac{11}{2} - \frac{2}{3}t \Rightarrow t = 3 \text{ hrs}$

16. (c)  $\frac{P(1 + \frac{R}{100})^3}{P(1 + \frac{R}{100})^2} = \frac{5908.50}{5850} \Rightarrow 1 + \frac{R}{100} = \frac{59085}{58500} \Rightarrow R = 1\%$

17. (b)  $MP = \frac{120}{100} \times 240 = 288$

S.P. = Rs 264

∴ Discount =  $288 - 264 = 24$

Discount% =  $\frac{24}{288} \times 100 = 8\frac{1}{3}\%$

18. (a)  $P[(1 + \frac{10}{100})^4 - 1] - P[(1 + \frac{20}{100})^2 - 1] = 482$

or  $P[(1 + \frac{10}{100})^4 - (1 + \frac{20}{100})^2] = 482 \Rightarrow P = \text{Rs } 20000$

19. (c) Let the time taken walking to work be  $x \text{ hrs}$  and for riding back =  $y \text{ hrs}$

$x + y = \frac{3}{2}$  or  $2x + 2y = 3$

$2y = \frac{11}{2} \text{ hr}$

∴  $2x = 3 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{2} \text{ hrs} = 2.5 \text{ hrs}$

20. (b) A's share : B's share : C's share  
 $40000 \times 12 : (50000 \times 3 + 40000 \times 9) : 60000 (12 - 3)$   
 or  $480000 : 510000 : 540000 = 16 : 17 : 18$

B's share =  $\frac{17}{16 + 17 + 18} \times 51000 = \text{Rs } 17000$

C's share =  $\frac{18}{51} \times 51000 = \text{Rs } 18000$

Reqd. amount =  $18000 - 17000 = \text{Rs } 1000$

21. (b) Amount paid by the library =  $\frac{85}{100} \times \frac{95}{100} \times 8000$   
 $= \text{Rs } 6460$

22. (d) A : B : C  
 $\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{3} : \frac{1}{4} = 6 : 4 : 3$

∴ A gets =  $\frac{6}{6 + 4 + 3} \times 117 = 54$

B gets = 36

C gets =  $\frac{3}{13} \times 119 = \text{Rs } 27$

A : B : C  
 2 : 3 : 4

A's share =  $\frac{2}{2 + 3 + 4} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 26$

B's share =  $\frac{3}{9} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 39$

C's share =  $\frac{4}{9} \times 117 = \text{Rs } 52$

∴ C gains most by  $\text{Rs } 52 - 27 = \text{Rs } 25$

23. (d) A's one day's work =  $\frac{1}{18}$

∴ A's 3 days' work =  $\frac{1}{18} \times 3 = \frac{1}{6} = \text{C's } 4 \text{ day's work}$

∴ C's one day's work =  $\frac{1}{6 \times 4} = \frac{1}{24}$

C's 6 days' work =  $\frac{1}{24} \times 6 = \frac{1}{4}$

B's 5 days' work =  $\frac{1}{4}$

∴ B's 1 day's work =  $\frac{1}{4 \times 5} = \frac{1}{20}$

∴ B will do the work in 20 days

24. (d) Let the first class railway fare and second class railway fare be Rs  $4x$  and Rs  $x$  resp. and no. of passengers of first class and that of 2nd class be  $y$  and  $40y$  resp.

A.T.S.  $4x \times y + x \times 40y = 1100 \Rightarrow xy = 25$

Amount collected from 2nd class passengers =  $40xy$   
 $= 40 \times 25 = \text{Rs } 1000$

25. (a) Anand's 3 days' work =  $\frac{1}{16} \times 3 = \frac{3}{16}$

Remaining work =  $1 - \frac{3}{16} = \frac{13}{16}$

(Anand's + Bala's) 1 day's work =  $\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{10} = \frac{13}{80}$

$\frac{13}{80}$  of work is done by both in 1 day

∴  $\frac{13}{16}$  of work will be done in  $1 \times \frac{80}{13} \times \frac{13}{16} = 5 \text{ days}$

Total time =  $5 + 3 = 8 \text{ days}$

26. (b)  $D = S \times t$

Total distance =  $50 \times 1 + 48 \times 2 + 52 \times 3 = 302 \text{ km}$

Total time = 6 hrs

∴ Mean speed =  $\frac{302}{6} = 50\frac{1}{3} \text{ km/hr}$

27. (b) Let the original wages of labourers be Rs  $22x$  and increased wages =  $25x$

Original no. of labourers =  $15y$  and reduced no. =  $11y$

∴ Original wage bill =  $\frac{330xy}{275xy} \times 5000 = \text{Rs } 6000$

# GENERAL AWARENESS

**Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Selection Board Exam  
held on 19th May, 1996**

1. Adam Smith is called the father of:  
(a) Botany (b) Zoology  
(c) Economics (d) None of the above
2. Hormones are carried from one part of the body to another part by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Blood (b) Lymph  
(c) Nervous system (d) None of the above
3. Under the provision of which Article of the Constitution, did the Government of India abolish the practice of untouchability?  
(a) Article 16 (b) Article 17  
(c) Article 18 (d) Article 19
4. Bile secreted by liver helps in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Respiration (b) Excretion  
(c) Purification of blood (d) Digestion
5. The fifth generation of computers will have \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Speech perception (b) Image perception  
(c) Capabilities of calculating 10 to 100 times more than the 4th generation computer  
(d) All of the above
6. By what percentage did the National Income grow during the Seventh Five Year Plan?  
(a) 2.1% (b) 5.6% (c) 5.2% (d) 4.5%
7. Who is the winner of 1995 Jnanpith award?  
(a) Girija Kumar Mathur (b) Naresh Mehta  
(c) Akshay Kumar Jain (d) None of these
8. The power to decide an election dispute rests with:  
(a) Parliament  
(b) High Courts and lower courts  
(c) High Courts with an appeal to Supreme Court  
(d) Election Commission
9. The 1996 Olympic Games are going to be held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Alaska (b) Atlanta  
(c) Brisbane (d) Beijing
10. Which of the following countries has launched smallest combat aircraft in the world recently?  
(a) Germany (b) Hong Kong  
(c) Japan (d) India
11. Who among the following Indian actors recently completed 50 years in Indian cinema?  
(a) Dharmendra (b) Rajesh Khanna  
(c) Dev Anand (d) Jeetendra
12. Who among the following players has become the second quickest bowler in the world to take 200 Test Cricket wickets in terms of number of Test recently?  
(a) Curtly Ambrose (b) Shane Warne  
(c) Waqar Younis (d) Craig McDermott
13. The Constitution amending power is provided in:  
(a) Article 368 (b) Article 35  
(c) Article 370 (d) Article 352
14. We borrowed the idea of Parliamentary system of democracy from:  
(a) Sweden (b) Canada  
(c) USA (d) England
15. Who establishes a new State in India?  
(a) The Executive (b) The Prime Minister  
(c) The President (d) The Parliament
16. The term of the Lok Sabha may be extended by  
(a) Six months (b) One year at a time  
(c) One year only (d) Five years
17. The SEBI was established in India during the year  
(a) 1988 (b) 1993 (c) 1992 (d) 1975
18. If the deficit of a budget is covered by printing of currency notes, the result will be  
(a) inflation (b) devaluation  
(c) depression (d) recession
19. A Free Port is a Port which.  
(a) does not have any custom checking  
(b) allows duty free imports  
(c) allows free entry to goods which are to be exported  
(d) allows free entry to goods from certain special countries
20. Which of the following film personalities has received the Norman Beaton Award for the year 1995?  
(a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Sridevi  
(c) Saeed Jaffery (d) Kader Khan
21. Cricket team of which of the following countries won the Wills World Cup 1996  
(a) India (b) Sri Lanka  
(c) Australia (d) West Indies
22. The Jharkhand movement stands for:  
(a) Independence (b) Reservation  
(c) Social justice (d) Statehood
23. Dialysis is used when a patient has serious trouble with:  
(a) Liver (b) Lung (c) Heart (d) Kidney
24. Jaundice is a disease of the:  
(a) Liver (b) Heart (c) Eyes (d) Lungs
25. Which mirror is used as a rear view mirror in vehicles?  
(a) Inverted (b) Convex  
(c) Concave (d) Plain



26. Which of the following gases is released by automobiles?

- (a) Nitrogen dioxide (b) Carbon monoxide  
(c) Carbon dioxide (d) Sulphur dioxide

27. The National Institute of Fashion Technology is located at:

- (a) Ahmedabad (b) Bombay  
(c) New Delhi (d) Kanpur

28. "Operation Bajrang" was action of the Indian Troops against:

- (a) Tamil Tigers in Tamil Nadu  
(b) Tamil militant positions in Sri Lanka  
(c) ULFA activists in Assam  
(d) Drug Peddlers at Indo-Pak Border

29. Indian State having the largest number of Scheduled Castes is:

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar  
(c) West Bengal (d) Punjab

30. Tiananmen Square is in:

- (a) Japan (b) Korea  
(c) China (d) Indonesia

31. The name of Garry Kasparov is associated with:

- (a) Football (b) Hockey  
(c) Lawn-Tennis (d) Chess

32. The unit of measuring food energy is:

- (a) Volts (b) Ergs  
(c) Horse Power (d) Calories

33. India occupies first position in the production of:

- (a) Rice (b) Wheat (c) Tea (d) Sugarcane

34. India is Republic because it has:

- (a) Parliament (b) Elected Prime Minister  
(c) Federal form of Government  
(d) Elected President

35. Ikebana is the Japanese art of:

- (a) Modern painting (b) Plant farming  
(c) Freestyle wrestling  
(d) Flower arrangement

36. The headquarters of UNICEF are located in:

- (a) New York (b) Geneva  
(c) Vienna (d) Washington, D.C.

37. One-rupee note bears the signature of:

- (a) Governor (b) Finance Minister  
(c) Secretary, Ministry of Finance  
(d) None of the above

38. Ajanta Paintings depict scenes from the:

- (a) Ramayana (b) Mahabharata  
(c) Jatakas (d) Upanishads

39. The "Single Window Scheme" which came into effect from Oct 1, 1986 was introduced for:

- (a) Custom clearance at the actual destination  
(b) Commodity-wise custom clearance windows  
(c) Borrowers to send their loan applications only to one lead public financial Institution  
(d) On the spot clearance of Income Tax Returns

40. Which of the following satellites helps telecast TV

network programmes all over the country?

- (a) Aryabhata (b) Apple  
(c) INSAT-1B (d) Rohini

41. Which one of the following is *not* correctly matched?

- (a) Maradona—Football (b) Geet Sethi—Tennis  
(c) V. Richards—Cricket (d) Pargat Singh—Hockey

42. In military terminology 'zero hour' means:

- (a) Mid-night  
(b) Expected time of withdrawal  
(c) Expected time of attack  
(d) Expected time of surrender

43. Who said, 'Go back to Vedas'?

- (a) Dayanand Saraswati  
(b) Vivekanand  
(c) Ramakrishna Paramahansa  
(d) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

44. Most important function of blood is to transport:

- (a) Nutrients (b) Oxygen  
(c) Waste products (d) Hormones

45. Distance in navigation is measured in:

- (a) Nautical Miles (b) Kilometres  
(c) Decibels (d) Chains

46. The maximum strength of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively is:

- (a) 500 and 250 members (b) 525 and 238 members  
(c) 537 and 275 members (d) 545 and 250 members

47. Thermos flask keeps a liquid hot because:

- (a) It has double walls  
(b) It has silver coated walls  
(c) Air between the double walls is removed  
(d) Heat losses by conduction and radiation are largely prevented

48. Who is the author of "The Satanic Verses"?

- (a) Abdullah Bukhari (b) Ayatollah Khomeini  
(c) Maulana Azad (d) Salman Rushdie

49. The main function of Reserve Bank of India is:

- (a) To keep the accounts of general public  
(b) To give loans to people  
(c) Credit control (d) None of these

50. Which of the following States touches boundary of 4 nations?

- (a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Assam  
(c) Nagaland (d) None of these

51. In which State of India, jute agriculture is largest?

- (a) West Bengal (b) Bihar  
(c) Orissa (d) Maharashtra

52. Money Bill can be introduced in:

- (a) Lok Sabha only (b) Rajya Sabha only  
(c) Either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha  
(d) None of these

53. Which one of the following rocks is transformed into marble?

- (a) Limestone (b) Granite  
(c) Peat (d) Shale

54. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) A nominated Member of Parliament cannot be made a Minister  
 (b) The leader of the largest party in the Lok Sabha is necessarily the head of the government  
 (c) A person appointed as a Minister has to become a member of one of the Houses of Parliament within six months, if he is not already one  
 (d) The President of India cannot hold office for more than a term
55. Which of the following is an artificial source of energy?  
 (a) Coal (b) Wood (c) Sun (d) Electricity
56. Dehydration in human body is caused due to the loss of:  
 (a) Vitamins (b) Salts  
 (c) Hormones (d) Water
57. Meningitis is a disease which affects the:  
 (a) Liver (b) Heart (c) Brain (d) Kidneys
58. Which country awards the Nobel Prize?  
 (a) Switzerland (b) Sweden  
 (c) India (d) U.S.A.
59. Which of the following has the highest calories per gram?  
 (a) Proteins (b) Glucose  
 (c) Fats (d) Sugar
60. At which particular place on earth are days and nights of equal length always?  
 (a) Prime meridian (b) Poles  
 (c) Equator (d) Nowhere
61. Which one of the following is *not* correctly matched?  
 (a) Gujarat—Kandla (b) Kerala—Cochin  
 (c) Karnataka—Mangalore  
 (d) Orissa—Vishakhapatnam
62. Buddha's preachings were mainly related to:  
 (a) Belief in one God  
 (b) Practice of Rituals  
 (c) Purity of Thought and Conduct  
 (d) Idol Worship
63. Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the codes given below the lists:

**List - 1**  
 (Minerals)

- a. Coal  
 b. Petroleum  
 c. Manganese  
 d. Mica

**List - 2**  
 (Chief regions of minerals extraction)

1. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh  
 2. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh  
 3. Bihar, Bengal  
 4. Maharashtra, Karnataka  
 5. Assam, Gujarat

- Codes:    a    b    c    d  
 (a) 3    5    1    2  
 (b) 2    1    3    4  
 (c) 2    5    3    1  
 (d) 5    3    4    2

64. Universal donor of blood is one whose blood group is:  
 (a) A (b) AB  
 (c) B (d) O
65. Match List 1 with List 2 and select your answer from the codes given below the lists:
- | List 1                | List 2              |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| a. Navjivan Express   | 1. Delhi-Udaipur    |
| b. Prayag Raj Express | 2. Puri-New Delhi   |
| c. Neelanchal Express | 3. Ahmedabad-Madras |
| d. Chetak Express     | 4. Delhi-Allahabad  |
- Codes:    a    b    c    d  
 (a) 2    1    3    4  
 (b) 1    2    3    4  
 (c) 4    2    1    3  
 (d) 3    4    2    1
66. India leads the world in the export of:  
 (a) Coffee (b) Cotton  
 (c) Manganese (d) Mica
67. "City of Seven Hills" is in:  
 (a) New York (b) Rome  
 (c) San Francisco (d) Belgium
68. Who among the following is *not* a cricket player?  
 (a) Sanjay Manjrekar (b) Ajay Jadeja  
 (c) Sachin Tendulkar  
 (d) Vishwanathan Anand
69. The first railway line was laid in:  
 (a) U.S.A. (b) North-East England  
 (c) Europe (d) U.S.A. and England
70. The first nuclear submarine acquired by the Indian Navy is named as:  
 (a) Maitri (b) Chakra  
 (c) Gangotri (d) Nag
71. On which day the World Environment Day is celebrated?  
 (a) June 1 (b) April 22  
 (c) May 7 (d) June 5
72. Which of the following is the longest river in the world?  
 (a) Ganga (b) Amazon  
 (c) Thames (d) Nile
73. Article 370 of the Constitution confers special status on:  
 (a) State of Punjab (b) Jammu & Kashmir  
 (c) Assam (d) Rajasthan
74. Who is the Supreme Commander of Army, Navy and Air Force?  
 (a) Defence Minister (b) Prime Minister  
 (c) President (d) Vice-President
75. Kuchipudi Dance originated in:  
 (a) Orissa (b) Karnataka  
 (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh
76. Kudremukh is:  
 (a) A type of whale (b) A Naval ship

- (c) An Irrigation Project  
(d) An Iron ore Project
77. Decimal currency system was adopted in India in the year:  
(a) 1957 (b) 1958 (c) 1955 (d) 1956
78. Who was the last Governor-General of free India?  
(a) Lord Wavell (b) The Lord Mountbatten  
(c) William Bentinck (d) C. Rajagopalachari
79. Which of the following is the currency used in China?  
(a) Lira (b) Rouble (c) Yuan (d) Yen
80. A fuse wire is used in an electric circuit to:  
(a) Minimise the loss of current in transmission  
(b) Maintain the voltage level  
(c) Prevent the heating of the electric wire  
(d) Prevent too high an electric current from passing through the circuit
81. Famous Khajuraho temples are located in:  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh  
(c) Bihar (d) Rajasthan
82. Which of the following is an anti-tank missile developed in India?  
(a) Nag (b) Trishul (c) Akash (d) Prithvi
83. The number of members nominated to Lok Sabha by the President is:  
(a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 12
84. Who invented Dynamite?  
(a) Alfred Nobel (b) Marie and Pierre Curie  
(c) James Watt (d) Thomas Alva Edison
85. The term 'Habeas Corpus' is associated with:  
(a) Microbiology (b) Military system  
(c) Legal system (d) Urea production
86. The time required for moonlight to reach earth is:  
(a) 1 second (b) 1.3 seconds  
(c) 2 seconds (d) 3.6 seconds
87. Who is the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest?  
(a) Asha Agrawal (b) Bachendri Pal  
(c) Arti Gupta (d) P.T. Usha
88. "I have nothing to offer except blood, sweat and tears" was said by:  
(a) Subhash Chandra Bose (b) Churchill  
(c) Lord Nelson (d) Napoleon
89. Who among the following is likely to benefit by Inflation?  
(a) Creditors (b) Debtors  
(c) Workers (d) Government
90. What is name of the document published by the Government to apprise the public on any issue?  
(a) Gazette  
(b) Report of the Public Accounts Committee  
(c) White Paper (d) None of the above
91. The Nargis Dutt Film Award is given to the best feature film on:  
(a) National integration

- (b) Environment  
(c) Social issues (d) Wholesome entertainment
92. Which country supplied the A-320 aeroplanes to the Indian Airlines?  
(a) France (b) West Germany  
(c) U.K. (d) U.S.A.
93. Which one of the following is *not* correctly matched?  
(a) KCF — Punjab  
(b) LTTE — Sri Lanka  
(c) JKLF — Assam  
(d) JMM — Bihar
94. Which one of the following is matched correctly?  
(a) Jantar Mantar — Udaipur  
(b) Marble Rocks — Jabalpur  
(c) Victoria Memorial — Bombay  
(d) Pichola Lake — Srinagar
95. Which one of the following is *not* a statutory function of the UPSC?  
(a) To advise the government on methods of recruitment, promotion and control of Public Services.  
(b) To look after the interests and rights of services.  
(c) To hear appeals from civil servants and redress their grievances.  
(d) To act as a watchdog on the functioning of the State Public Service Commissions.
96. Dandi March is associated with:  
(a) Non-cooperation movement  
(b) Civil disobedience movement  
(c) Quit India movement  
(d) Khilafat movement
97. Which of the following is the oldest Veda?  
(a) Sam Veda (b) Rig Veda  
(c) Yajur Veda (d) Atharva Veda
98. Smallest bone in human body is in:  
(a) Ear (b) Hand (c) Foot (d) Ribs
99. The average time interval between two successive high tides is:  
(a) 6 hrs. 13 min. (b) 12 hrs. 26 min.  
(c) 18 hrs. 19 min. (d) 24 hrs. 52 min.
100. Indian farmers are most idle during:  
(a) Hot wet season (b) Hot dry season  
(c) Cold wet season (d) Cold season beginning
101. 'Strict moral conduct and virtuous life is the way to salvation.' This theory belongs to:  
(a) Buddhism (b) Jainism  
(c) Hinduism (d) Islam
102. Which source of energy disturbs the human life the most?  
(a) Solar energy (b) Nuclear energy  
(c) Thermal power (d) Hydroelectric power
103. Who was the first and only Muslim lady ever to rule from the throne of Delhi?  
(a) Laxmi Bai (b) Nur-Jehan  
(c) Zeenat Mahal (d) Razia Sultan

104. Mahmud Ghazni attacked India many times mainly to:
- Spread Islam in India
  - Plunder India's wealth
  - Establish his empire in India
  - Take India's renowned artisans to his country
105. What percentage of earth's surface is covered by ocean water?
- 70
  - 65
  - 85
  - 75
106. The Five Year Plans are approved and reviewed by the:
- National Development Council
  - Planning Commission
  - Lok Sabha
  - Union Cabinet
107. "Take off stage" in an economy means:
- All controls are removed
  - Economy is about to collapse
  - Economy is stagnant
  - Steady growth begins
108. It is not advisable to sleep under a tree at night because trees release:
- Carbon dioxide
  - Carbon monoxide
  - Nitrogen
  - Sulphur Dioxide
109. Ghatotkach in Mahabharat was the son of:
- Arjun
  - Bhim
  - Duryodhana
  - Yudhishtir
110. The Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by:
- President
  - Prime Minister
  - Parliament
  - Chief Justice of India
111. Suez canal joins:
- Red Sea and Arabian Sea
  - Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea
  - Arabian Sea and Mediterranean Sea
  - North Sea and Baltic Sea
112. Which type of fire extinguisher is used for petroleum fire?
- Foam type
  - Soda acid type
  - Powder type
  - None of these
113. The birth of Bangladesh was a result of which war?
- 1947
  - 1965
  - 1971
  - 1975
114. In ancient Egypt, people used to preserve their dead, called:
- Totems
  - Isoliths
  - Sphinx
  - Mummies
115. What is the similarity between Bombay and New York?
- Sea ports
  - Capital cities
  - Largest cities
  - None of these
116. Which of the following has the highest population?
- Asia
  - Africa
  - Europe
  - None of these
117. Which of the following is a kharif crop?
- Barley
  - Gram
  - Rice
  - Wheat

118. Which of the following does not generate energy inside the body but are still essential?
- Fats
  - Proteins
  - Vitamins
  - Carbohydrates
119. What are the truths about Arya Samaj? Choose the right code:
- It opposed idolatry
  - It encouraged reconversion to Hinduism
  - It condemned casteism
  - It encouraged equality of men and women
- 1, 2, 3, 4
  - 1, 2, 3
  - 1, 2, 4
  - 1, 3, 4
120. 'Super 301' refers to:
- A missile developed by U.S.A.
  - A frigate of Navy
  - A U.S. trade law
  - A forum of 301 environmentalists drawn from all over the world
121. Which of the following is/are the objectives of SAARC?
- To improve regional cooperation among member countries
  - To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region.
  - To strengthen co-operation with other developing countries
  - Fight against terrorism.
- 1, 2 & 3
  - 1, 2 & 4
  - 2, 3 & 4
  - 1, 3 & 4
122. Cancer is caused because of:
- Heavy accumulation of fat
  - Uncontrolled multiplication of cells
  - Controlled multiplication of cells
  - None of these
123. Match the following:
- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Nepanagar | 1. HMT factory        |
| (b) Rishikesh | 2. Oil refinery       |
| (c) Barauni   | 3. Newsprint          |
| (d) Pinjore   | 4. Antibiotic factory |
- Codes:      (a)      (b)      (c)      (d)
- |       |   |   |   |
|-------|---|---|---|
| (a) 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| (c) 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| (d) 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
124. In May-June each year, the monsoon winds approach the southern tip of India from:
- Northly direction
  - North-easterly direction
  - North-westerly direction
  - South-westerly direction
125. Which of the following is a non-conventional source of energy?
- Coal
  - Biogas
  - Oil
  - None of these
126. Which one of the following vegetable proteins is considered as good as an animal protein?
- Soyabean protein
  - Corn protein

- (c) Wheat protein (d) Bengal gram protein
127. Which is the major river flowing westwards in the Indian Peninsula?
- (a) Krishna (b) Godavari  
(c) Mahanadi (d) Narmada
128. I.N.S. *Chakra* is a:
- (a) Nuclear powered submarine  
(b) Cruiser  
(c) Destroyer (d) Trawler
129. The Union Council of ministers in India is appointed by:
- (a) The President of India according to his discretion  
(b) The Prime Minister of India  
(c) The President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister  
(d) By the Parliament
130. The minimum eligible age of a candidate for election as the President of India is:
- (a) 25 years (b) 30 years  
(c) 35 years (d) 40 years
131. In the Vedic Age, the main occupation of the Aryans was:
- (a) Hunting (b) Agriculture  
(c) Trade (d) Food gathering
132. Which one of the following is the best description of a balanced diet?
- (a) The food that is rich in vitamins  
(b) The food that supplies all the essential nutrients in amounts that meet our nutritional needs  
(c) The food that provides energy to maintain the body at its normal temperature  
(d) The food that provides the energy to maintain the basal metabolism of the body
133. A chemical that is widely used for purifying drinking water is:
- (a) Fluorine (b) Chlorine  
(c) Iodine (d) Potassium Permanganate
134. The I.N.A. was organised by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at:
- (a) Rangoon (b) Singapore  
(c) Taiwan (d) Tokyo
135. The size of the Muslim Community in India is:
- (a) The largest in the world  
(b) Next only to that of Bangladesh  
(c) The second largest in the world  
(d) Is as large as that of Pakistan
136. Buddhism became global religion due to the efforts of:
- (a) Bindusar (b) Ashoka  
(c) Kanishka (d) Harsha
137. Who, among the following, died while fighting against British?
- (a) Siraj-ud-Daula  
(b) Wajid-Ali-Shah  
(c) Bahadur Shah Zafar  
(d) Tipu Sultan
138. The largest deposits of Uranium in India are found in:
- (a) Bihar (b) Kerala  
(c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
139. Oxygen is transported to every cell of the human body by:
- (a) Red blood cells (b) White blood cells  
(c) Blood platelets (d) Hormones
140. The first Indian to get the Nobel Prize was:
- (a) Rabindra Nath Tagore  
(b) C. Rajagopalachari  
(c) C.V. Raman (d) Hargobind Khorana
141. Arjuna award is given for excellent performance in the field of:
- (a) Sports (b) Literature  
(c) Films (d) None of these
142. Simla Pact was signed between India and Pakistan in the year:
- (a) 1972 (b) 1977 (c) 1966 (d) 1982
143. Myopia is a disease connected with:
- (a) Lungs (b) Eyes (c) Nose (d) Ears
144. The Constitution of India came into force on:
- (a) November 26, 1949  
(b) August 15, 1947  
(c) January 26, 1950  
(d) April 1, 1951
145. Which of the following qualifications are required for appointment as Governor of an Indian State?
- (a) Must be a citizen of India  
(b) Must not be less than 35 years of age  
(c) Must not hold any office of profit  
(d) All of the above
146. Cyanide acts as a poison by directly affecting the:
- (a) Brain  
(b) Affinity of blood for oxygen  
(c) Cardiac and respiratory system  
(d) Nervous system
147. How much blood does a normal person have in his body?
- (a) 8 litres (b) 4 to 5 litres  
(c) 10 litres (d) 2 litres
148. The Indian National Congress came into existence in the year:
- (a) 1857 (b) 1885 (c) 1889 (d) 1947
149. The four major components of the atmosphere are:
- (a) Oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and argon  
(b) Oxygen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and neon  
(c) Oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and hydrogen  
(d) Oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and water vapour
150. The man who discovered Mount Everest as the highest peak of the Himalayas was:
- (a) A geologist (b) A surveyor  
(c) An astronomer (d) A scientist

## ANSWERS

1. (c)      2. (a)      3. (b)      4. (d)
5. (d)      6. (c)
7. (d) The 31st (1995) Jnanpith award was given to Malayalam writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair.
8. (c) *Introduction to the Constitution of India—15th Edition, by D.D. Basu, page 353.*
9. (b)      10. (d)      11. (c)      12. (c)
13. (a)      14. (c) and (d)      15. (d)
16. (c) The extension cannot be made for a period extending one year at a time and, in any case, such extension cannot continue beyond a period of six months after the proclamation of Emergency ceases to operate.  
*Introduction to the Constitution of India, 15th Edition, by D.D. Basu, page 197.*
17. (a) 12th April, 1988.
18. (a)      19. (c)      20. (c)      21. (b)      22. (d)
23. (d)      24. (a)      25. (b)      26. (b)      27. (c)
28. (c)      29. (a)      30. (c)      31. (d)      32. (d)
33. (c)      34. (c)      35. (d)      36. (a)      37. (c)
38. (c)      39. (c)      40. (c)      41. (b)      42. (c)
43. (a)      44. (b)      45. (a)      46. (d)      47. (d)

48. (d)      49. (c)      50. (a)      51. (a)      52. (a)
53. (a)      54. (c)      55. (d)      56. (d)      57. (c)
58. (b)      59. (c)      60. (c)      61. (d)      62. (c)
63. (a)      64. (d)      65. (d)      66. (d)      67. (b)
68. (d)      69. (b)      70. (b)      71. (d)
72. (d) 6,679 km      73. (b)      74. (c)      75. (d)
76. (d)      77. (d)      78. (d)      79. (d)      80. (d)
81. (b)      82. (a)      83. (d)      84. (a)      85. (c)
86. (b) Light travels at 3,00,000 km per second, and moon's distance from earth is 3,85,000 km.
87. (b)      88. (b)      89. (b)      90. (c)      91. (a)
92. (a)      93. (c)      94. (b)      95. (d)      96. (b)
97. (b)      98. (a)      99. (d)      100. (c)      101. (b)
102. (c)      103. (d)      104. (b)      105. (b)      106. (a)
107. (d)      108. (a)      109. (b)      110. (a)      111. (b)
112. (c)      113. (c)      114. (d)      115. (a)      116. (a)
117. (c)      118. (c)      119. (b)      120. (c)      121. (b)
122. (b)      123. (b)      124. (d)      125. (b)      126. (a)
127. (d)      128. (a)      129. (c)      130. (c)      131. (b)
132. (b)      133. (b)      134. (b)      135. (c)      136. (b)
137. (d)      138. (a)      139. (a)      140. (a)      141. (a)
142. (a)      143. (b)      144. (c)      145. (d)      146. (a)
147. (b)      148. (b)      149. (a)
150. (b) Sir George Everest, a British Surveyor.

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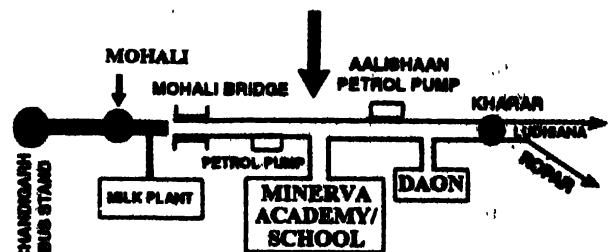
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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**SSC Income Tax and Central Excise Inspectors' Exam**  
**held on the 28th April '96**

## TEST II

**Directions:** In Questions (1 to 5), out of the four given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given word, and mark it on the Answer-Sheet by blackening the rectangle (=) corresponding to the appropriate letter (A, B, C, D).

1. ILLICIT  
 (A) not legible  
 (B) not legal  
 (C) not attractive  
 (D) not sociable
2. COMPLEMENT  
 (A) words of praise  
 (B) a grammatical category  
 (C) to complete  
 (D) a geographical category
3. RISQUE  
 (A) slightly humorous  
 (B) slightly improper  
 (C) slightly risky  
 (D) very risky
4. APLOMB  
 (A) assurance  
 (B) fear  
 (C) adventure  
 (D) a powerful bomb
5. OCULIST  
 (A) one who possesses occult knowledge  
 (B) one who makes optical instruments  
 (C) A specialist in the treatment of ENT disease  
 (D) A specialist in the treatment of the diseases of the eye

**Directions:** In Questions (6 to 10), a group of words is given in each question. Below it are given four words which can be substituted for the given group of words. Find the appropriate alternatives which can substitute the given words, and mark them in the Answer-Sheet by blackening the rectangle (=) corresponding to the appropriate letter (A, B, C, D).

6. A drawing on transparent paper  
 (A) red print

- (B) blue print  
 (C) negative  
 (D) transparency
7. a cure for all diseases  
 (A) Panache  
 (B) Panacea  
 (C) Panax  
 (D) Palliative
8. ready to believe  
 (A) credulous  
 (B) credible  
 (C) creditable  
 (D) incredible
9. study of birds  
 (A) Orology  
 (B) Optology  
 (C) Ophthalmology  
 (D) Ornithology
10. a dramatic performance  
 (A) Mask  
 (B) Mosque  
 (C) Masque  
 (D) Mascot

**Directions:** In Questions (11 to 15), the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered 1 and 6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer and indicate it in the Answer-Sheet by blackening the rectangle (=) corresponding to the appropriate letter (A, B, C, D).

11. 1. I had halted on the road.  
 P. As soon as I saw the elephant I knew I should not shoot him.  
 Q. It is a serious matter to shoot a working elephant.  
 R. I knew that his 'must' was already passing off.  
 S. The elephant was standing eighty yards from the road.  
 6. I decided to watch him for a while and then go home.  
 (A) SPQR (B) PQSR  
 (C) RQPS (D) SRPQ

12. 1. A man can be physically confined within stone walls.

P. But his mind and spirit will still be free.

Q. Thus his freedom of action may be restricted.

R. His hopes and aspirations still remain with him.

S. Hence, he will be free spiritually if not physically.

6. No tyranny can intimidate a lover of liberty.

- (A) PQRS (B) SRQP  
 (C) QPRS (D) QPSR

13. 1. The dictionary is the best friend for your task.

P. That may not be possible always.

Q. It is wise to look it up immediately.

R. Then it must be firmly written on the memory and traced at the first opportunity.

S. Never allow a strange word to pass unchallenged.

6. Soon you will realize that this is an exciting task.

- (A) PQRS (B) SPQR  
 (C) QRPS (D) SQPR

14. 1. As he passed beneath her he heard the swish of her wings.

P. He was not falling head long now.

Q. Then a monstrous terror seized him.

R. But it only lasted a minute.

S. He could hear nothing.

6. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards.

- (A) PSQR (B) QSPR  
 (C) QSRP (D) PRQS

15. 1. When a satellite is launched, the rocket begins by going slowly upwards through the air.

P. However, the higher it goes, the less air it meets.

Q. As the rocket goes higher, it travels faster.

R. For the atmosphere becomes



thinner.

S. As a result there is less friction.

6. Consequently, the rocket still does not become too hot.

- (A) QPRS (B) QSPR  
(C) PQRS (D) PQSR

**Directions:** In the following passage (Qns. 16-20) some of the words have been left out. First read the passage over and try to understand what it is about. Then fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Mark your answer in the Answer-Sheet by blackening the rectangle (=) corresponding to the appropriate letter (A, B, C, D).

As a rule of thumb, a manned mission costs from fifty to a hundred times more than a comparable unmanned mission. Thus, for scientific exploration alone, (16) missions, employing machine intelligence, are (17). However, there may well be (18) other than scientific for exploring (19) social, economic, political, cultural or (20).

16. (A) manned  
(B) unmanned  
(C) space  
(D) lunar  
17. (A) liked  
(B) wanted  
(C) used  
(D) preferred  
18. (A) reasons  
(B) causes  
(C) clues  
(D) objects  
19. (A) moon  
(B) sun  
(C) space  
(D) mission  
20. (A) casual  
(B) historic  
(C) historical  
(D) histrionic

**Direction:** In Questions (21-25), some of the sentences have errors and some are correct as they are. Find out which part of a sentence has an error and blacken the rectangle (=) corresponding to the appropriate letter (A, B, C). If a sentence is free from errors, blacken the rectangle corresponding to (D) in the Answer-Sheet.

21. A free press is not a privilege(A) but the organic necessity(B) in a free society(C) No error.(D)

22. It is time(A) we did something(B) to stop road accidents.(C) No error.(D)

23. An animal(A) can be just as un-

happy in a vast area(B) or in a small one.(C) No error.(D)

24. The number of marks carried by each question(A) are indicated(B) at the end of the question.(C) No error.(D)

25. Were he(A) to see you,(B) he would have been surprised.(C) No error.(D)

**Directions:** In Questions (26-40), you have three brief passages with 5 questions following each passage. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives and mark it in the Answer-Sheet.

**Passage I (Q. Nos. 26-30)**

Many Sociologists have argued that there is a functional relationship between education and economic system. They point to the fact that mass formal education began in industrial society and is an established part of all industrial societies. They note that the expansion of the economies of industrial societies is accompanied by a corresponding expansion of their educational systems. They explain this correspondence in terms of the needs of industry for skilled and trained manpower, needs which are met by the educational system. Thus, the provision of mass elementary education in Britain in 1870 can be seen as a response to the needs of industry for a literate and numerate work-force at a time when industrial processes were becoming more complex and the demand for technical skills was steadily growing.

26. The author argues that

- (A) formal education can be traced to industrial society.  
(B) industrial society is responsible for expansion of education at the mass level.  
(C) industrial society gave rise to vocational education.  
(D) industrial society changed the pattern of education

27. The Sociologists referred to in the passage say that the relationship between industry and elementary education was one

- (A) based on mutual need.  
(B) based entirely on the need of the industry.  
(C) based entirely on economic need.  
(D) based on some inexplicable historical forces.

28. By 'functional relationship' is

meant

- (A) a short-term relationship.  
(B) practical and utilitarian relationship.  
(C) temporary arrangement.  
(D) close and unbreakable relationship.

29. The industry needs a literate work-force because

- (A) its expansion needs sound learning.  
(B) it relies heavily on expertise.  
(C) it promotes a competitive spirit.  
(D) its operations need intricate technical knowledge.

30. The observations of the Sociologists are based on a study of

- (A) the statistical data available in a historical context.  
(B) economic system of the 19th century.  
(C) the correlation between industry and education in a historical context.  
(D) growth of industry in the 19th century

**Passage II (Q. Nos. 31-35)**

Organizations are institutions in which members compete for status and power. They compete for the resources of the organization, for example, finance to expand their own departments, for career advancement and for power to control the activities of others. In pursuit of these aims, groups are formed and sectional interests emerge. As a result, policy decisions may serve the ends of the political and career systems rather than those of the concern. In this way, the goals of the organization may be displaced in favour of sectional interests and individual ambition. These preoccupations sometimes prevent the emergence of organic systems. Many of the electronics firms in their study had recently created research and development departments employing highly qualified and well-paid scientists and technicians. Their high pay and expert knowledge were sometimes seen as a threat to the established order of rank, power and privilege. Many senior managers had little knowledge of the technicalities and possibilities of new developments and electronics. Some felt that close cooperation with the experts in an organic system would reveal their ignorance and show that their experience was now redundant.

31. The theme of the passage is  
 (A) groupism in organizations.  
 (B) individual ambitions in organizations.  
 (C) frustration of senior managers.  
 (D) emergence of sectional interests in organizations.

32. The author makes out a case for

- (A) organic system.  
 (B) research and development in organizations.  
 (C) an understanding between senior and middle level executives.  
 (D) a refresher course for senior managers.

33. The author tends to see the senior managers as

- (A) ignorant and incompetent.  
 (B) a little out of step with their work environment.  
 (C) jealous of their younger colleagues.  
 (D) robbed of their rank, power and privilege.

34. Policy decision in organization would involve

- (A) cooperation at all levels in the organization.  
 (B) modernization of the organization.  
 (C) attracting highly qualified personnel.  
 (D) keeping in view the larger objectives of the organization.

35. "Organic system" as related to the organization implies its

- (A) growth with the help of expert knowledge.  
 (B) growth with inputs from science and technology.  
 (C) steady all-round development.  
 (D) natural and unimpeded growth.

#### Passage III (Q. Nos. 36-40)

The object underlying the rules of natural justice "is to prevent miscarriage of justice" and secure "fair play in action". As pointed out earlier the requirement about recording of reasons for its decision by an administrative authority exercising quasi-judicial functions achieves this object by excluding chances of arbitrariness and ensuring a degree of fairness in the process of decision-making. Keeping in view the expanding horizon of the principles of natural justice, we are of the opinion that the requirement to record reason can be regarded as one of the principles of natural justice which govern exercise of power by administrative authorities. The rules of natural justice are not embodied rules. The extent of their application depends upon the particular statutory framework whereunder jurisdiction has been conferred on the administrative authority. With regard to the exercise of a particular power by an administrative authority including exercise of judicial or quasi-judicial functions the legislature, while conferring the said power, may feel that it would not be in the larger public interest that the reasons for the order passed by the administrative authority be recorded in the order and be communicated to the aggrieved party and it may dispense with such a requirement.

36. According to the passage, natural justice can be brought about by  
 (A) administrative authority remaining vigilant.  
 (B) administrative authority upholding rules of natural justice.  
 (C) administrative authority framing rules suitably.  
 (D) administrative authority observing the rules of fair play.

37. According to the passage, there is always a gap between

- (A) rules of natural justice and their application.  
 (B) conception of a rule and its concretisation.  
 (C) demand for natural justice and its realisation.  
 (D) intention and execution.

38. From the passage it is clear that it is the legislature that

- (A) invests the administrative authority with enormous powers.  
 (B) embodies rules.  
 (C) has the larger interests of public welfare.  
 (D) leaves administrative authority enough discretion to interpret rules.

39. "The rules of the natural justice are not embodied rules" means that these rules

- (A) are left deliberately vague.  
 (B) cannot be satisfactorily interpreted.  
 (C) are flexible.  
 (D) cannot be visualised.

40. "To dispense with a requirement" means

- (A) to do without the demand.  
 (B) to drop the charge.  
 (C) to cancel all formal procedure.  
 (D) to alter the provisions of the case.

#### ANSWERS

- |                                  |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. B                             | 2. C  | 3. B  |
| 4. A                             | 5. D  | 6. D  |
| 7. B                             | 8. A  | 9. D  |
| 10. C                            | 11. B | 12. A |
| 13. D                            | 14. C | 15. A |
| 16. B                            | 17. D | 18. A |
| 19. C                            | 20. C |       |
| 21. B 'but an organic necessity' |       |       |
| 22. D No error                   |       |       |
| 23. C 'as in a small one'        |       |       |
| 24. B 'is indicated'             |       |       |
| 25. A 'If he were'               |       |       |
| 26. A                            | 27. B | 28. B |
| 29. D                            | 30. D | 31. D |
| 32. A                            | 33. A | 34. C |
| 35. B                            | 36. D | 37. A |
| 38. A                            | 39. C | 40. A |

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## VOCABULARY

# Improve Your Word Power

1. **atrophy:** (a) degeneration (b) improvement (c) poverty (d) development.
2. **budge:** (a) plead (b) please (c) mix (d) move.
3. **callow:** (a) ambitious (b) talkative (c) immature (d) experienced.
4. **debilitate:** (a) weaken (b) harden (c) hasten (d) soften.
5. **erode:** (a) increase (b) destroy (c) disturb (d) enrich.
6. **fuzzy:** (a) fruitful (b) indistinct (c) insincere (d) cheap.
7. **gyrate:** (a) excite (b) inspire (c) revolve (d) perspire.
8. **humdinger:** (a) old monument (b) ground reality (c) futile effort (d) excellent person.
9. **indict:** (a) acquit (b) prescribe (c) suggest (d) accuse.
10. **jiggery-pokery:** (a) mischief (b) innocence (c) ignorance (d) victory.
11. **kick-back:** (a) conspiracy (b) bribe (c) witness (d) trial.
12. **listless:** (a) doubtful (b) obedient (c) indifferent (d) eager.
13. **murky:** (a) bright (b) expensive (c) deep (d) gloomy.
14. **nosey (nosy):** (a) over-worked (b) over-curious (c) over-due (d) over-whelmed.
15. **obsequious:** (a) arrogant (b) assertive (c) servile (d) independent.
16. **ploy:** (a) strategy (b) information (c) payment (d) knowledge.
17. **remiss:** (a) smart (b) slack (c) excellent (d) faithful.
18. **swamp:** (a) float (b) fly (c) sink (d) flood.
19. **tipsy:** (a) sober (b) modest (c) intoxicated (d) relaxed.
20. **vapid:** (a) lifeless (b) immortal (c) memorable (d) permanent.

### ANSWERS

1. **atrophy:** (a) degeneration, deterioration.  
—The cultural life of a country will sink into *atrophy* unless more writers and artists emerge.
2. **budge:** (d) move, change.  
—Once he has made up his mind, you can never make him *budge* (from his opinions).
3. **callow:** (c) immature, inexperienced.  
—Only a *callow* youth like you could commit such a folly in the presence of so many distinguished guests.
4. **debilitate:** (a) weaken, deplete.  
—The military junta's aim has been to *debilitate* Ms Suu Kyi and eventually erode her support abroad.
5. **erode:** (b) destroy, wear away.  
—Under Emergency, the rights of the people get *eroded* on one pretext or the other.

6. **fuzzy:** (b) blurred, indistinct.  
—To my great dismay, the picnic party photographs have come out all *fuzzy*.
7. **gyrate:** (c) revolve, rotate, turn.  
—In the opinion of saints and seers, all worldly activities *gyrate* around illusory goals and deceptive destinations.
8. **humdinger:** (d) excellent or remarkable person.  
—The chance meeting with the stranger turned out to be a memorable encounter with a *humdinger*.
9. **indict:** (d) accuse, charge.  
—The court has *indicted* police for violation of human rights of the under-trials.
10. **jiggery-pokery:** (a) mischief, trickery.  
—All marriages of convenience, whether in politics or in family, smack of *jiggery-pokery*, to say the least.
11. **kick-back:** (b) bribe, payoff.  
—The senior bureaucrat is suspected to have accepted *kick-backs* in many a trade agreement finalised under his signature.
12. **listless:** (c) indifferent, spiritless.  
—Long illness has left the patient quite *listless* and cheerful.
13. **murky:** (d) gloomy, dark.  
—It was on a *murky* night that an old couple was done to death in their flat.
14. **nosey (nosy):** (b) over-curious, rudely inquisitive.  
—Some persons become really intolerable when they try to be *nosey* about the private lives of others.
15. **obsequious:** (c) servile, fawning, sychophantic.  
—It is not a virtue to be always *obsequious* to one's boss or superior.
16. **ploy:** (a) strategy, manipulation, manoeuvre.  
—A successful politician employs every *ploy* in his armoury to upstage his opponent.
17. **remiss:** (b) slack, neglectful, lax.  
—It was *remiss* of her that she failed to strike when the iron was hot.
18. **swamp:** (d) flood, sink, inundate.  
—A vast area of land under standing crops was *swamped* due to heavy and incessant rains.
19. **tipsy:** (c) intoxicated, slightly drunk.  
—The chief guest was a little *tipsy* when he arrived at the function.
20. **vapid:** (a) tasteless, lifeless, dull.  
—Any literature made-to-order is *vapid* as well as vacuous (thoughtless) both in contents and characterisation.

# TEST OF REASONING—1

Questions 1-5 are based on series of numbers given below:

6 7 5 7 4 7 5 6 4 3 7 5 4 3 4 6 7 5 7 6 4 5 7 7 5 4 5 3 7 5 3

- How many 7s are followed by 5 but not preceded by 4?  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7  
(e) None of these
- How many 5s have odd numbers on their right and left?  
(a) None (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 3  
(e) None of these
- What is the ratio between the frequency of 4 and 7?  
(a) 2:3 (b) 1:3 (c) 1:2 (d) 3:4  
(e) None of these
- The ratio between the frequency of 3 and 5 is  
(a) 2:3 (b) 1:3 (c) 1:2 (d) 3:4  
(e) None of these
- How many times in the series has a number been followed by its next natural number?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6  
(e) None of these

If the letters in alphabets were written in reverse order:

- Which letter would be exactly in the middle of 10th letter from your right and 13th letter from your left?  
(a) J (b) K (c) Q (d) R  
(e) None of these
- Which letter is to the right of 19th letter from your left?  
(a) G (b) I (c) T (d) R  
(e) None of these
- Which popular word can be formed with the 2nd and 15th letters from your left and 1st and 16th letters from your right?

In questions 9 and 10, each question has a lead word which are followed by five words. Four out of the five words have similar relationship with the lead word. Your task is to find out the word that is different from the rest.

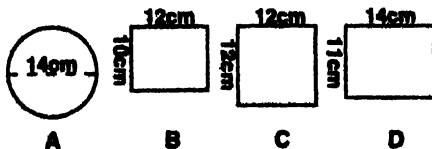
9. MATURITY

- (a) RATION (b) MATTER (c) TRAIN  
(d) CITY (e) TRUST

10. EDUCATION

- (a) CAUTION (b) DINE (c) NICE  
(d) DICTION (e) TOAD

Study the figures given below and answer questions 11 and 12.



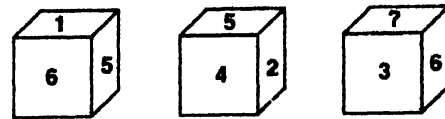
- Which two figures have an equal area?  
(a) A and B (b) B and D (c) A and C  
(d) A and D (e) None

- Which two figures have equal boundary lines?  
(a) A and C (b) A and B (c) A and D  
(d) C and D (e) None

Find out the missing letters:

- ac-cacb-acbc-cbc-c  
(a) baab (b) bcaa (c) acab  
(d) bcba (e) abba
- bca-bbcacb-cac-bca-  
(a) cabc (b) abbc (c) cbac  
(d) abba (e) cbbc
- a-abcac-bcacabc-c-b  
(a) bcab (b) baca (c) baab  
(d) caba (e) caaa

Given below is a dice in three different positions:

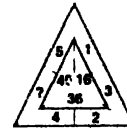


- The number on the face having question-mark is  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 4  
(d) 5 (e) Can't say
- Which number is on the opposite face of 2?  
(a) 1 (b) 3 (c) 5  
(d) 6 (e) Can't say

Find out the missing numbers in questions 18 to 20.

- 2(20)4; 5(?)7, 3(10)1  
(a) 63 (b) 57 (c) 74  
(d) 68 (e) None of these
- 9(32)7, 5(9)4, 8(?)3.  
(a) 48 (b) 29 (c) 55  
(d) 42 (e) None of these

20



- (a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4  
(d) 7 (e) None of these

In questions 21 to 25, mark your answers:

- (a) if one is the product of the other.  
(b) if both are products of the same item.  
(c) if the items are opposites.  
(d) if both the items belong to the same species.  
(e) if one is a member of the other group.

21. lizard : python.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

22. fish : shark.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

23. bee-hive : honey.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

24. Mars : Venus.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

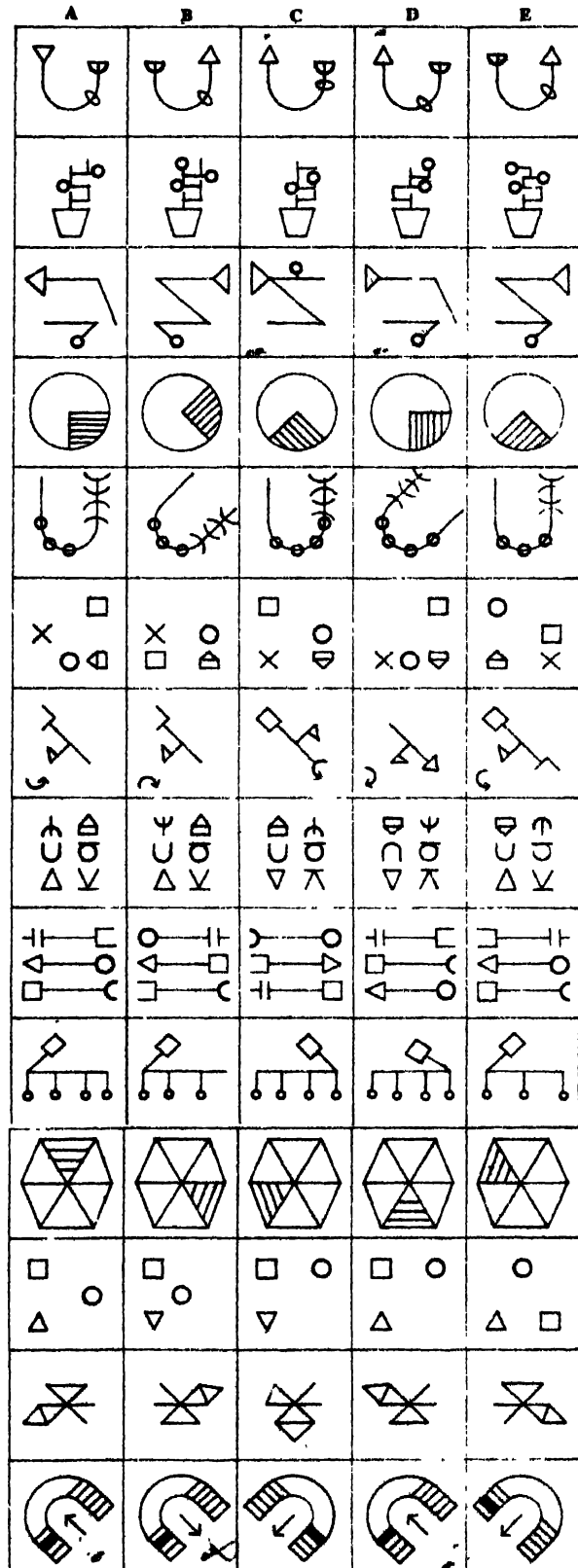
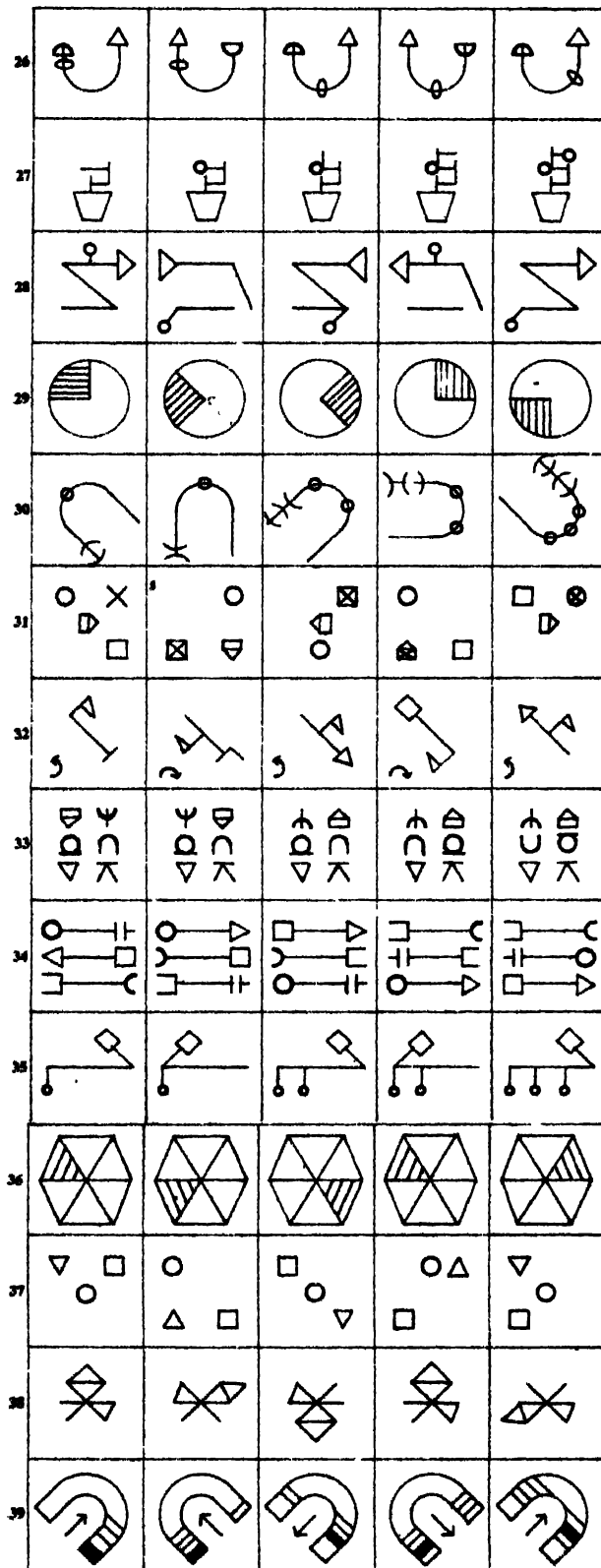
25. brick : pottery

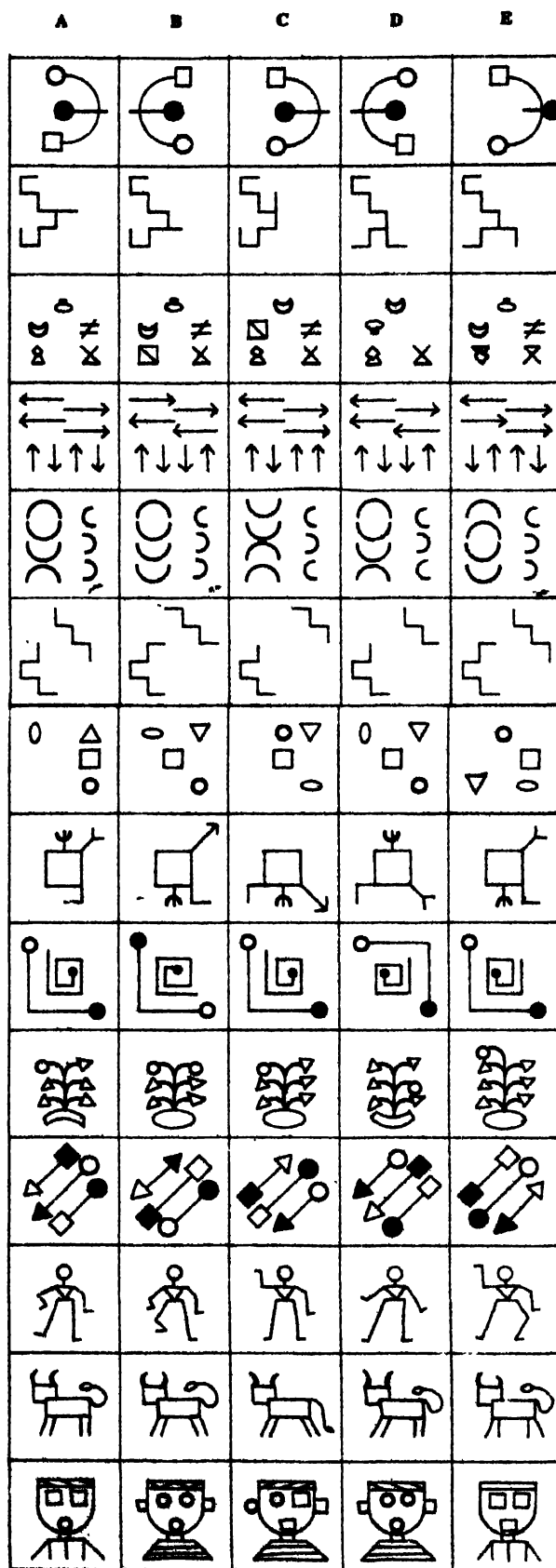
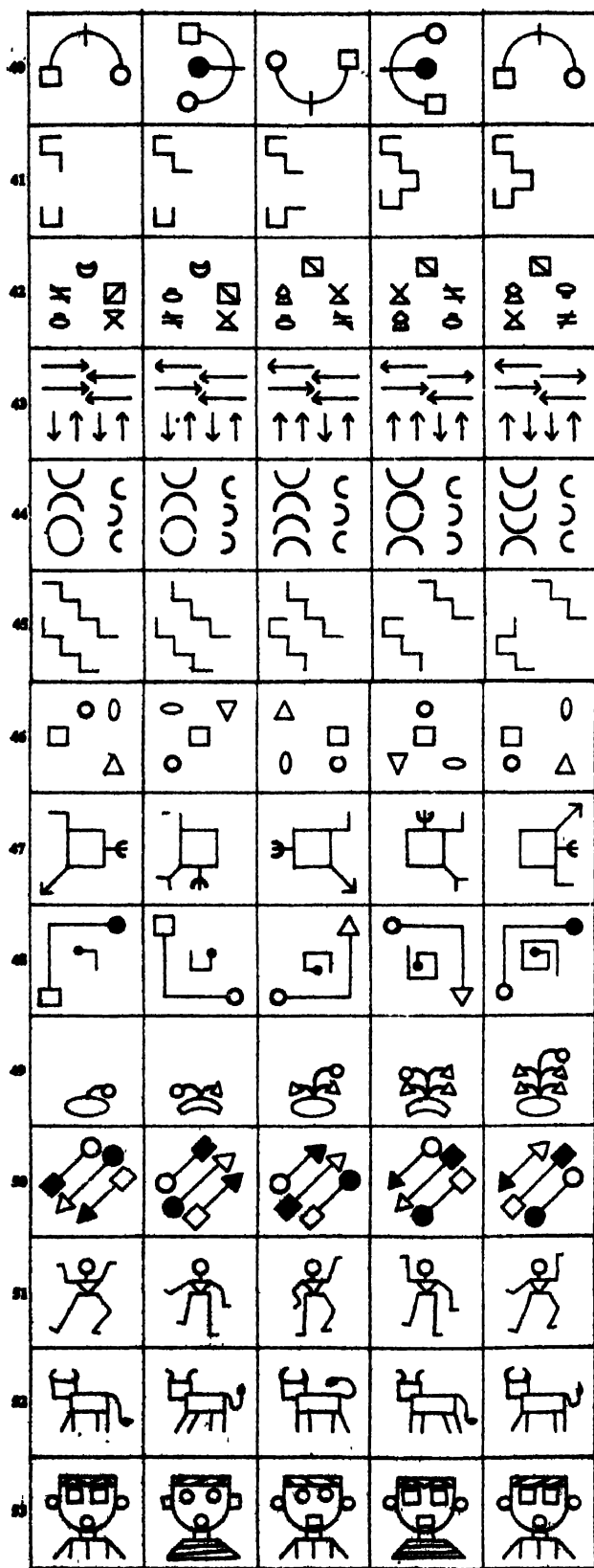
- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

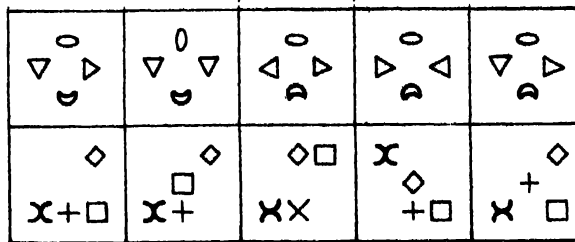
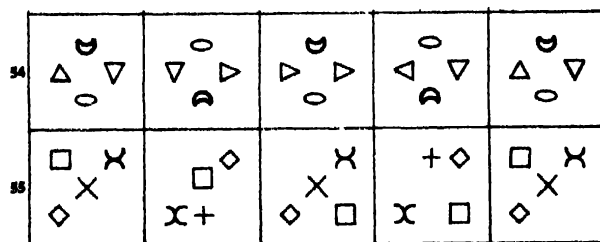
Qs. 26-55. Which figure from answer-figures, A, B, C, D and E would be the next one in the series of Problem Figures?

PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES



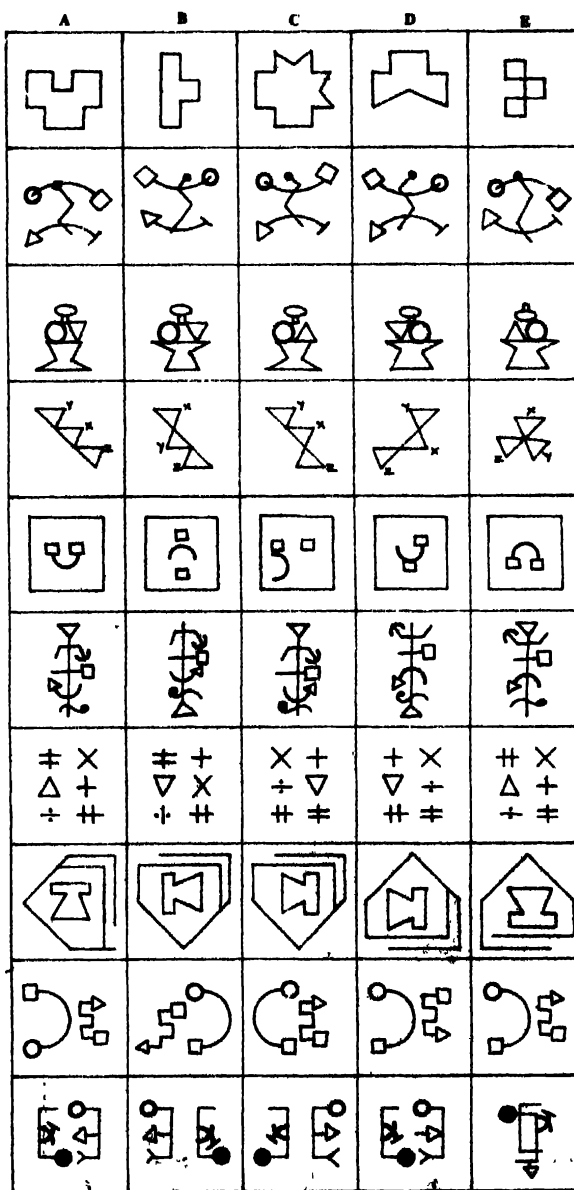
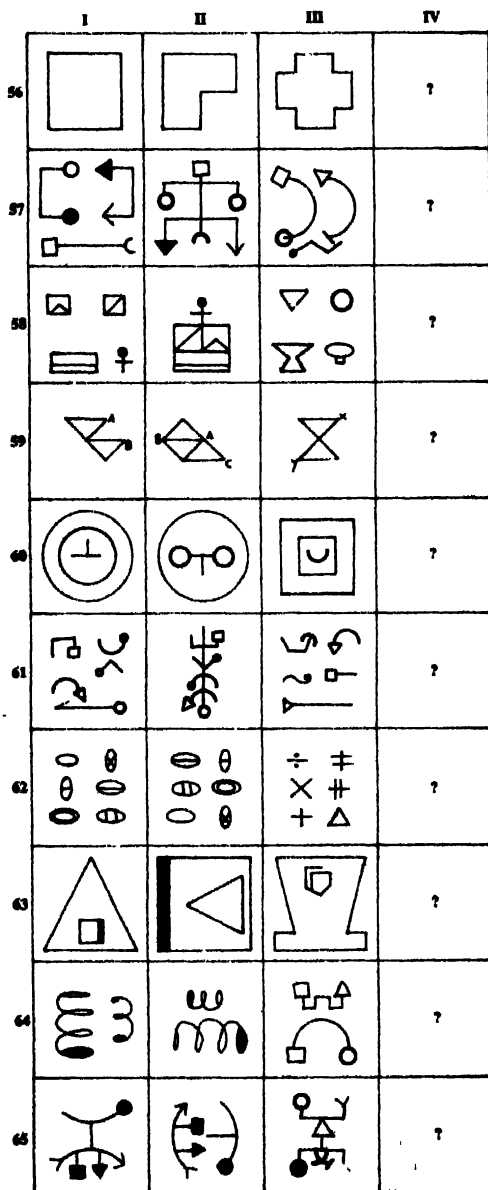




Qs. 56-65. Figures I and II in Problem Figures are related to each other in a certain way. Find out from A, B, C, D and E, i.e., the Answer Figures, the figure that is related to figure III in the same way.

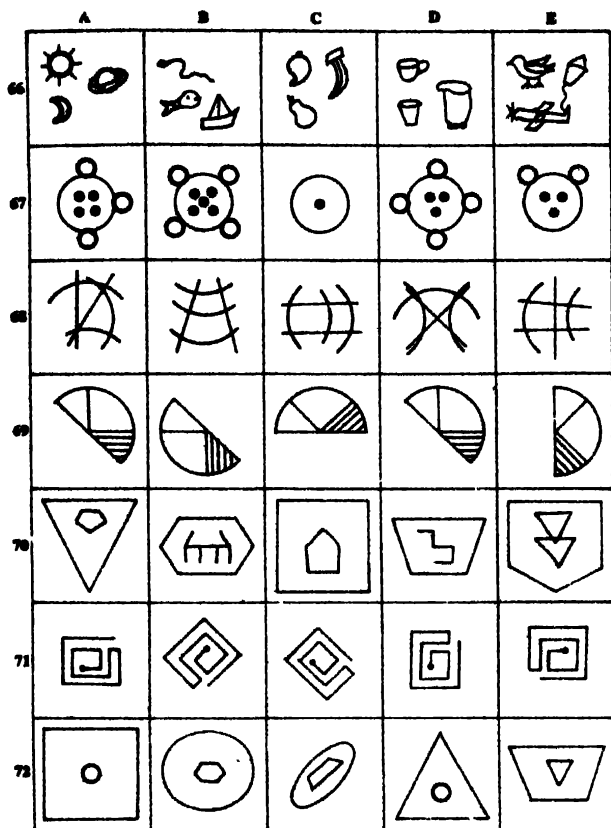
PROBLEM FIGURES

ANSWER FIGURES

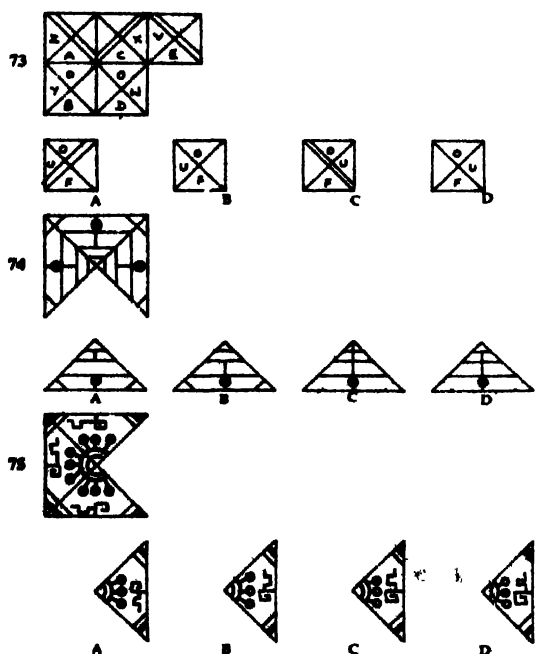




# Find the odd-man out:



In each of the following questions, a part of the given Problem Figure is missing. From the given alternatives, select the one which would properly complete the pattern in the Problem Figure.



## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (c)
  6. (c) 7. (a) 8. PLAY
  9. (a) All the other words have one letter which does not occur in the word. This one has two, O and N.
  10. (d) In the other words, all the letters have been borrowed from the key word. Here one 'I' is extra.
  11. (d)  $\pi^2 (\frac{22}{7} \times 49)$  and  $(11 \times 14) = 154$  sq cm
  12. (b)  $2\pi (2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times 7)$  and  $(12 + 10) \times 2 = 44$  cm
  13. (b) The series is acbc/acbc/acbc ...
  14. (e) The series is bcab/bcab/bca ...
  15. (e) The series is acabc/acabc/acab ...
  16. (a) 17. (d)
  18. (c)  $5^2 + 7^2 = 74$
  19. (c)  $8^2 - 3^2 = 55$
  20. (a)  $(2 + 5)^2 = 49$
  21. (d) 22. (e)
  23. (a) 24. (d)
  25. (b)
- For answering questions 26 to 55, the following guide-lines may prove helpful.
- (i) Study each figure in the question separately as well as in relationship with other figures.
  - (ii) The different figures may move at a different pace, may remain as such or change position during this movement. (Example, 31, 37, 55 etc.)
  - (iii) The movement of the figures may be clockwise, anti-clockwise, right, left, along certain points or from corner to corner. The figures may move in different directions. (Example, 31, 37 etc.)
  - (iv) Some figures may interchange position according to a set pattern. (Example, 34, 50 etc.)
  - (v) Something may be added or dropped according to a definite pattern. (Example, 38, 42, 45, 48, 49 etc.)
  - (vi) The pattern in figures may gain or lose steps during movement. (Example, 29, 36, 39 etc.)
26. D 27. A 28. D 29. C 30. E
  31. D 32. B 33. A 34. E 35. B
  36. B 37. D 38. D 39. A 40. C
  41. B 42. A 43. D 44. A 45. D
  46. B 47. E 48. C 49. C 50. B
  51. A 52. C 53. D 54. E 55. B
  56. A 57. C 58. B 59. A 60. E
  61. C 62. E 63. C 64. A 65. D
  66. B. In all the others, the items belong to the same set, heavenly bodies, fruits, liquid containers and flying objects.
  67. D. In all the others the dots are one more in number in comparison to the outer figures.
  68. E. This one has two curves and three straight lines, in all the others there are three curves and two straight lines.
  69. D. The pattern is wrong.
  70. A. In all the others, the outer figure has one arm less than the inner figure. Here there is a difference of two.
  71. D. The pattern faces wrong side.
  72. E. In all the others one figure belongs to circle category and other has straight lines. Here both have straight lines.
  73. B 74. B 75. D

# TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) pencil (b) pen (c) chalk  
(d) paint (e) brush
2. (a) silk (b) cotton (c) nylon  
(d) wool (e) jute
3. (a) tabla (b) pakhawaj (c) mridangam  
(d) sitar (e) dholak
4. (a) triangle (b) tangent (c) square  
(d) rhombus (e) pentagon
5. (a) Asia (b) Australia (c) America  
(d) Africa (e) England
6. (a) Urdu (b) Gurumukhi (c) Tamil  
(d) Gujarati (e) Brijhasha
7. (a) Pataliputra (b) Amaravati (c) Panchvati  
(d) Dwarka (e) Ujjaini
8. (a) deer (b) giraffe (c) zebra  
(d) hyena (e) rhinoceros
9. (a) BATU (b) ZYST (c) SRPQ  
(d) FEGH (e) IJSO
10. (a) abCD (b) efGH (c) rsTU  
(d) nmOP (e) ijKL
11. (a) EV (b) GT (c) HR  
(d) MN (e) KP
12. (a) FDCG (b) MKJN (c) WUTY  
(d) JHGK (e) ZXWA
13. (a) PUS (b) HLJ (c) UYW  
(d) BFD (e) LPN
14. (a) 144 (b) 12 (c) 81  
(d) 9 (e) 121
15. (a) 63 (b) 140 (c) 35  
(d) 50 (e) 49
16. (a) 2 (b) 7 (c) 9  
(d) 11 (e) 13
17. (a) 21 : 24 (b) 28 : 32 (c) 14 : 16  
(d) 70 : 80 (e) 54 : 62
18. (a) 3 : 8 (b) 6 : 35 (c) 7 : 50  
(d) 1 : 0 (e) 9 : 80

Which letter/number would be the next one in the series given below:

19. AZPBYQCXRDW?  
(a) E (b) U (c) T (d) S (e) V
20. ZXUQ?  
(a) P (b) L (c) N (d) K (e) J
21. BAFEJINM?  
(a) R (b) P (c) S (d) Q (e) O
22. GHJMQ?  
(a) T (b) W (c) S (d) U (e) V
23. 7, 15, 8, 17, 9, 19, 10, ?  
(a) 28 (b) 21 (c) 31 (d) 26 (e) 29
24. 3, 6, 18, 72, 360, ?  
(a) 1080 (b) 720 (c) 1800 (d) 3600 (e) 2160
25. 1, 1, 4, 8, 9, 27, 16, ?  
(a) 24 (b) 32 (c) 48 (d) 64 (e) 80
26. 4, 9, 19, 39, ?  
(a) 69 (b) 79 (c) 59 (d) 71 (e) 81
27. 5, 6, 10, 19, 35, ?

(a) 49 (b) 52 (c) 60 (d) 70 (e) 69  
Qs. 28 to 30. If POSTER is coded as 234678 and MOON is coded as 5331, how will you code the given words?

28. MORE  
(a) 5387 (b) 3587 (c) 5837 (d) 5738
29. STOPS  
(a) 43624 (b) 46324  
(c) 43264 (d) 46234
30. ROSTER  
(a) 843678 (b) 843768  
(c) 834678 (d) 873468

31. If PRINCE is coded as QQJMDD then KINGDOM would be:

- (a) LJOHEPN (b) LHOFENN  
(c) LHMHENN (d) LJMHCNP

In questions 32 to 36, a related pair of words in CAPITAL letters is followed by four pairs of words. Select the pair which expresses the relationship that is most similar to that of capitalised pair.

32. TRACK : TRAIN  
(a) petrol : car (b) wheel : bicycle  
(c) road : truck (d) temple : God
33. LAKE : WATER  
(a) ice : cold (b) sea : ship  
(c) stadium : cricket (d) school : children
34. SALE : PURCHASE  
(a) give : receive (b) shop : market  
(c) cash : credit (d) profit : loss
35. TV : RADIO  
(a) music : dance (b) patient : doctor  
(c) coat : sweater (d) ship : deck
36. WORM : VEGETABLES  
(a) fire : coal (b) ornaments : bride  
(c) termite : wood (d) dog : cat
37. Which river falls into the Bay of Bengal?  
(a) Narmada (b) Tapti  
(c) Mahanadi (d) Chambal

38. If a train is running 3 minutes late and if it is losing 1 sec per minute how many more minutes will it take for the train to be running one hour late?

- (a) 1140 (b) 1160 (c) 1150 (d) 1800

At 7 A.M., Ajay started from his home on his bicycle at a speed of 20 km per hour. He went two kms west then turned left and went one km; then he again turned left and covered one km. Unfortunately his bicycle got punctured so he turned right and had to walk one km at a speed of 5 kms per hour. He got his bicycle repaired which took 5 mts. Then he turned left and after going for 1 km reached the swimming pool.

39. How far is the swimming-pool from Ajay's house as the crow flies?

- (a) 1 km (b) 2 kms (c) 3 kms  
(d) 4 kms

40. At what time did Ajay reach the swimming-pool?

- (a) 7.48 A.M. (b) 7.32 A.M. (c) 7.42 A.M.  
(d) 7.38 A.M. (e) None of these

## SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements, followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take everything given in the statements to be true although it may seem at variance with commonly accepted facts. Then decide which of the conclusions follow from the statements. Tick mark the right answer from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

Statements:

41. 1. All children are adults.  
2. All adults are fat.

Conclusions:

- I. All fat persons are children.  
II. All children are fat.  
III. Only some children are fat.  
IV. Some fat persons are adults.  
(a) Only I and II follow.  
(b) Only III and IV follow.  
(c) Only II and IV follow.  
(d) Only I and III follow.  
(e) Either II or III follows.

Statements:

42. 1. Some novels are epics.  
2. All epics are dramas.

Conclusions:

- I. Some novels are dramas  
II. Some epics are novels.  
III. Some novels are not epics.  
IV. Some dramas are epics.  
(a) Only I and II follow.  
(b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Only I, III and IV follow.  
(d) Only II and IV follow.  
(e) All the four follow.

Statements:

43. 1. All stones are marbles.  
2. Some marbles are diamonds.

Conclusions:

- I. Some diamonds are stones.  
II. Some diamonds are not marbles.  
III. Every diamond is either marble or stone.  
IV. No stone is a diamond.  
(a) Only I and II follow.  
(b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Either II or III follows.  
(d) Either I or IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statements:

44. 1. Some chairs are tables.  
2. Some tables are sticks.

Conclusions:

- I. No chair is a stick.  
II. Some sticks are not tables.  
III. Some chairs are sticks.  
IV. Some tables are not chairs.  
(a) Only I and II follow.  
(b) Either I or III follows.  
(c) Only III and IV follow.  
(d) Either II or IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statements:

45. 1. Some trees are flowers.

2. All plants are flowers.

Conclusions:

- I. Every flower is either tree or plant.  
II. Some flowers are plants as well as trees.  
III. Some trees are plants.  
IV. No flower is plant as well as tree.  
(a) Either II or IV follows.  
(b) None follows.  
(c) Only III follows.  
(d) Only I follows.  
(e) All the four follow.

Statements:

46. 1. All posters are made of wood.  
2. All clothes are made of wood.

Conclusions:

- I. Some posters are clothes.  
II. Some clothes are not made of wood.  
III. Nothing else is made of wood except posters and clothes.  
IV. Clothes are made of posters.  
(a) Only I follows.  
(b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only IV follows.  
(d) Either III or IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statements:

47. 1. Some fans are heaters.  
2. Some stoves are heaters.

Conclusions:

- I. Every heater is either fan or stove.  
II. All the heaters are fans as well as stoves.  
III. Some fans are not heaters.  
IV. Some stoves are not heaters.  
(a) Only I and II follow.  
(b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Only III and IV follow.  
(d) Either I or II follows.  
(e) Either III or IV follows.

Statements:

48. 1. Every youngman is either a player or an executive.  
2. Every player is either tall or fat.

Conclusions:

- I. No player is tall as well as fat.  
II. Some executives are players.  
III. No executive is fat.  
IV. No player is short.  
(a) Only I follows.  
(b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only III follows.  
(d) Only IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed, assumed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions are implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer.

Statement:

49. Geologists from all over the world doubt the US theory about the fossilised evidence of single-cell life on Mars.

Assumptions:

- I. The US scientists have not been able to prove their theory with sufficient evidence.

- II. Most of the American geological theories are based on Assumptions.  
 III. These American geologists believe that life does not exist on Mars and has never existed there.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II and III are implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) None is implicit.  
 (e) All are implicit.

**Statement:**

50. According to the latest tiger census, the tiger population of tiger reserves in U.P. has declined shockingly.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The tigers were hiding in their secret caves while the census was going on.  
 II. Tigers have been observing the birth control programme.  
 III. Poachers have killed a lot of tigers in these reserves.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Only I and II are implicit.  
 (e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

51. Most of the movie awards are going to films made in South India.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Most of the judges belong to South and are rather partial.  
 II. The film-makers of South are very talented and have originality.  
 III. Bombay makes only *masala* films.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Either I or II is implicit.  
 (e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

52. The CBI arrested a person on the charges of criminal conspiracy and having two passports in two different names.

**Assumptions:**

- I. If one gets two passports in one name it is not an offence.  
 II. CBI is empowered to arrest criminals.  
 III. Having two passports in two different names is illegal.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Only I and II are implicit.  
 (e) Only II and III are implicit.

**Statement:**

53. There is a great demand to introduce a chapter on human rights in education.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Even some of the educated persons are not aware of their rights as human beings.  
 II. Knowing human rights would bring an awareness among the children.  
 III. The educationists are rather concerned about the general awareness of children.

- (a) Only I is implicit.

- (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) All the three are implicit.  
 (e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

54. Astronomical sums are spent on security of political elites, both in and out of office.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Political elites are always in danger.  
 II. The life of political personalities is more precious than that of a common man.  
 III. The government considers it a responsibility to safeguard the persons in politics who might be a target for terrorists and anti-social elements.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) None is implicit.  
 (e) Either II or III is implicit.

**Statement:**

55. If someone dies due to consumption of spurious liquor, the State government pays compensation to the bereaved family.

**Assumption:**

- I. It is the responsibility of the State to supply the right type of liquor to the consumers.  
 II. Spurious liquor is cheaper than good quality liquor.  
 III. The poverty-stricken families encourage the bread-winner to consume such spurious liquor in order to get monetary compensation.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Any one from the three is implicit.  
 (e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

56. The enlightened citizens of the country are demanding the right of information to all citizens to make democracy transparent and corruption-free.

**Assumptions:**

- I. At present the government has many secrets which are not known to public.  
 II. The citizens want the country to get rid of corruption.  
 III. This right would be granted to the citizens.

- (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only I and II are implicit.  
 (c) Only II and III are implicit.  
 (d) None is implicit.  
 (e) Only I and III are implicit.

*In each question below is given a statement followed by three Courses of Actions numbered I, II and III. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc. on the basis of the information given in the statement. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the three suggested courses of action logically follow for pursuing.*

**Statement:**

57. Bus robberies are constantly on increase specially in night services.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. Each night bus should have atleast two armed

- guards.
- II. The travellers, travelling at night should not be allowed to carry any cash or valuables with them.
- III. Night bus services should be stopped altogether.
- (a) Only I follows.  
 (b) Only II follows.  
 (c) Only III follows.  
 (d) Only I and II follow.  
 (e) All the three follow.

**Statement:**

58. The country is becoming rather sick of scandals and scams in the higher circles.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. Such things should not be made public.  
 II. All the power should be transferred to lower offices.  
 III. The probe into such matters should be discontinued.
- (a) Only I follows.  
 (b) Only II follows.  
 (c) Only III follows.  
 (d) Either I or III follows.  
 (e) None follows.

**Statement:**

59. A terrorist group has threatened to blow a stadium during a function.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. The security should be tightened.  
 II. The venue of the function should be changed.  
 III. The function should be either cancelled or postponed.
- (a) Only I follows.  
 (b) Only II follows.  
 (c) Only III follows.  
 (d) Either III or IV follows.  
 (e) None follows.

**Statement:**

60. Some of the juvenile crimes are due to the impact of TV serials and horror movies on young minds.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. Violence should be strictly banned in movies and TV programmes.  
 II. There should be different programmes for the young and matured persons.  
 III. A character building programme should be an essential part of syllabi.
- (a) Only I follows.  
 (b) Only II follows.  
 (c) Only III follows.  
 (d) Only I and III follow.  
 (e) All the three follow.

**Statement:**

61. A nationwide programme of medical check-up of children in primary schools has been carried out successfully.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. The medical teams should keep a regular record of these check-ups.  
 II. The authorities should organize further camps to observe if their instructions are being followed.  
 III. The weak children should not be allowed to attend the school.

- (a) Only I follows.  
 (b) Only I and II follow.  
 (c) Either I or II follows.  
 (d) All the three follow.  
 (e) None follows.

Below is given a passage followed by several possible inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference separately in the context of the passage and decide upon the degree of falsity or truth in it. Mark your answers:

- (a) if the inference is definitely true.  
 (b) if probably true.  
 (c) if doubtful as the data provided is inadequate.  
 (d) if probably false.  
 (e) if definitely false.

Queen Elizabeth was forced to release him at last, for only he could control the sturdy men who were disputing over a prize money. Raleigh rapidly settled the situation, and the queen gave him his freedom, but he could not regain her favour and retired to semi-exile with his newly married wife. Yet London saw him again, not as Raleigh the courtier but as Raleigh the scholar and scientist who became the centre of an intellectual and scientific circle. Now he conceived his great plan for the penetration of Guiana, then a remote and mysterious region reported to be teeming with treasure of all kinds. In the early part of 1595, the fleet set sail and after much misery and suffering, with brighter intervals when they were hospitably entertained by native chiefs, the expedition reached a region which certain indications promised to be rich in gold.

62. Queen Elizabeth, mentioned in the passage is the present queen of England.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

63. The Queen was not very happy with Raleigh.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

64. Guiana is in South America.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

65. When the region was explored, Raleigh found a lot of gold there.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

66. Raleigh was a man of multi-dimensional talents.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

67. The Queen was an autocrat and paid no heed to sensible suggestions.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Qs. 68-70. In a family of six there are three men A, B and C and three women X, Y and Z. The old couple has a married son and a married daughter. The six members of the family are accountant, artist, doctor, editor, lawyer and teacher by profession but not in the same order. Read the following information carefully and answer questions 68-70 on the basis of this information.

The artist is teacher's wife and the lawyer's daughter-in-law.

The doctor is accountant's father.

A's sister is married to C.

X is Z's daughter.

68. Which of the following is the right couple?

- (a) AZ (b) BX (c) CZ (d) AY (e) BY

69. The doctor is married to:

- (a) teacher (b) lawyer (c) artist  
 (d) editor (e) accountant

70. Which of the following statement is correct?

- (a) B is neither editor nor doctor.  
 (b) A is an artist and he is married to Y.  
 (c) C is an editor and he is Z's son-in-law.  
 (d) The editor is the accountant's brother-in-law.  
 (e) The doctor is teacher's father-in-law.

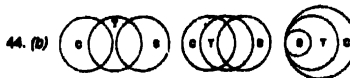
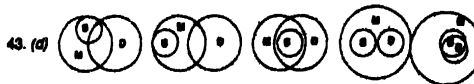
## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) All the others are instruments for writing/painting.
2. (c) All the others are natural fibres, this one is synthetic.
3. (d) All the others are percussion instruments.
4. (b) All the others are enclosed with lines.
5. (e) All the others are continents.
6. (e) It is the only dialect among languages with different scripts.
7. (c) All the others are ancient cities while this is a place with five *vat* trees where Ram stayed with Sita and Laxman during his *vanvas*.
8. (d) All the others are vegetarians.
9. (e) S and O are not neighbours in the alphabetic order as all the others are.
10. (d) Ought to be 'mn'.
11. (c) In all the others the letters have the same position from A and Z.
12. (c) The spacing is wrong, Y should have been X.
13. (a) The gap among letters is different.
14. (b) All the others are squares of certain numbers.
15. (d) All the others are divisible by 7.
16. (c) All the others are prime numbers.
17. (e) In all the others the ratio is 7 : 8.
18. (c) The arrangement in other numbers is  $x : x^2 - 1$ .
19. (d) There are three series, ABCD...ZYXW...PQRS.
20. (b) The gap increases by one.
21. (a) 'R'. Study the gaps and arrangement.
22. (e) The gap increases by one.
23. (b) Make sets of two. Each next number is double +1 of the preceding number.
24. (e) Multiply the numbers by 2, 3, 4, 5 ... respectively.
25. (d) The arrangement is  $1^2; 1^3; 2^2; 2^3; 3^2; 3^3$  ...
26. (b) Same as question number 23.
27. (c) Go on adding  $1^2; 2^2; 3^2; 4^2$  respectively to numbers.
28. (a) 29. (b) 30. (c)
31. (b) Letters 1, 3, 5 ... are coded by their next letter and the remaining by their preceding letter in the alphabetical order.
32. (c) One moves on the other.
33. (d) One is fitted with the other.
34. (a) The sense is the same, getting and giving.
35. (c) Both perform a similar function.
36. (c) One eats away, hence, destroys the other.
37. (c) 38. (a)



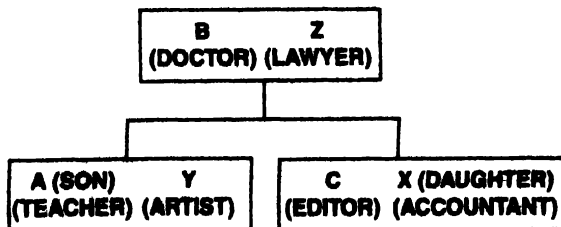
39. (b)      40. (b)

**Qs. 41 to 48.** These questions are best solved by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reaching the fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle, irrespective of its size. Here are some examples:



49. (a) 50. (c) 51. (b) 52. (e) 53. (d)  
54. (c) 55. (e) 56. (b) 57. (a) 58. (e)  
59. (a) 60. (d) 61. (b) 62. (e) 63. (a)  
64. (c) 65. (b) 66. (a) 67. (d)

**Qs. 68 to 70.**



68. (d)      69. (b)      70. (c)

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# October: Before and After Independence

## Before Independence

A number of events that took place in October include passing of Benaras Hindu University Act on **October 1, 1915**, the re-arrival of Simon Commission in India on **October 11, 1928**, the inception of Air Force (RIAF) in India on **October 8, 1932**, the launching of Tata Air-Mail service in India on **October 15, 1932**. However, while scrutinizing events of October one inadvertently finds that October has through and through been a month of Mahatma Gandhi. Not merely that he was born on **October 2, 1869** but also because October witnessed a number of events involving Mahatma that shaped the destiny of India. In this section we shall focus on the 'League entering Interim Government' and 'Gandhiji's 21-day fast'

### League entering Interim Government

To break the dead-lock between Congress and the League, the Nawab of Bhopal saw Mahatma Gandhi on **October 1, 1946** and apparently an agreeable formula was developed which was signed by Gandhiji on **October 4, 1946**. But soon after signing the same, Gandhiji realised 'his mistake' and communicated the message to Nawab, expressing his inability to force Congress to accept the same. Nonetheless, the next day Congress Working Committee accepted Gandhiji's formula and conveyed the message to Jinnah. But to Jinnah the issue of 'joint responsibility' continued to be 'the only hurdle'. Subsequently on **October 15, 1946** Liaquat Ali Khan, the General Secretary, announced League's decision to join the Interim Government.

### Gandhiji's 21-day fast

Simmering tension between Hindus and Muslims in Kohat took grave turn in

September, 1924 when the process of the evacuation of Hindus began. On September 17 Mahatma Gandhi commenced 21-day fast at Mohammed Ali's house. It was his fifth fast in India and one of the longest fasts for the cause of 'unity'. He described his fast as 'penance and prayer' and stressed need to evolve 'heart-unity' and not just a 'patched up peace'. A number of people and groups impressed upon Gandhiji to give up fast. On October 1 deputation of women from Bombay called on Mahatma to pursue him to give it up. Finally on **October 8, 1924** at Delhi he broke his fast.

## After Independence

In this section we shall focus on 'Tryst with October 2', 'Inauguration of Andhra & Chandigarh' and Kapil's Tryst with October.

### Tryst with October 2

Two great leaders, Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, were born on 2nd October. Over the years a number of significant events took place on this day. For instance on **October 2, 1951** the Pune All India Radio station was opened. On the same day in 1955 the first coach rolled out of Integral Coach Factory at Perambur. In 1963 Sucheta Kripalani was sworn in as Chief Minister of UP and she became first ever Woman head of any State ministry in India. In 1972 Bombay TV Centre was inaugurated. In 1978 National Adult Education Programme was formally launched and next year saw the launching of Operation (Milk) Flood-II. In 1986 Rajiv Gandhi escaped first attempt on his life at Raj Ghat. In 1987 Jan Morcha, a new political party was launched. In 1991 Project Biosphere II was launched. In 1994 Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao an-

nounced the institutionalisation of Gandhi Peace Award on the lines of Nobel Peace Prize.

### Inauguration of Andhra and Chandigarh

In October foundations of two philosophically diagonally apart 'settlements' were laid in India. While on **October 1, 1953** Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru inaugurated Andhra Pradesh—India's first linguistic State—on **October 7, 1953** President Rajendra Prasad laid the foundation stone of Chandigarh, India's first planned modern city. Incidentally Le Corbusier, the noted French Architect who was the brain behind Chandigarh, was born in Switzerland on **October 6, 1887**. It was in **October 12, 1951** that Capital Advisory Committee recommended that the new capital of Punjab be christened as Chandigarh, associated with Goddess Chandi.

### Kapil's Tryst with October

Kapil's 16-year-cricket journey from Faisalabad to Faridabad coincided with the months of October. On **October 16, 1978** Kapil Dev, amidst high aspirations, took charge of Indian bowling attack as India's first genuine new ball bowler. And 16 years after on **October 17, 1994**, thousands of the cricket fans, contrary to their expectations of watching another exceptional performance from 'the Haryana Hurricane', were stunned to see the disdain manner in which Kapil Dev was hit for fours and sixes. In his last one-dayer Kapil Dev conceded 37 runs in five overs and that virtually marked an end to Kapil's era. In between on **October 5, 1996** at Ahmedabad, while playing against Australia, Kapil Dev became the first Indian and the third in the World to lead his country for the 50th time.



# Questions on Social and Economic Problems

## MAT

**Q.** The recently announced Minimum Alternate Tax is expected to raise about Rs 1600 crore for the government. But there are a number of doubts about the effectiveness of the tax. Give arguments For and Against the newly introduced tax.

**Ans.** The scheme of MAT as contained in the Finance Act, 1996, stipulates that where the total income of a company, as computed under the Income Tax Act, after availing of all eligible deductions is less than 30 per cent of the 'book profit', the total income of such a company shall be taken to be 30 per cent of such profits and taxed accordingly.

### Arguments For

1. MAT is not very different from section 115J introduced by the Finance Act 1988, which set the minimum taxable income of a company at 30 per cent of its book profits. Contrary to criticism, the MAT does not by any means impose an excessive burden on the corporate sector. What the MAT does is to distribute the corporate tax burden more equitably between companies.

2. MAT does not act as a disincentive on capital formation. The use of accelerated write-off on investment in plant and machinery, as a device to reduce tax liabilities, is effectively exploited by large companies. Concessions of this type are distortionary. We need a system of fiscal incentives for more efficient utilisation of existing capacities. MAT is supposed to be a step towards that

### Arguments Against

1. The MAT has been justified on the grounds that more than 1000 profitable companies are not paying any tax and have converted themselves into zero-tax companies. However, critics point out that no fault can be found with such companies as they have not converted themselves into

zero-tax companies by any devices of evasion, avoidance or subterfuge. They have simply made use of the numerous incentives, exemptions, concessions and deductions embedded in the income-tax law and are legally entitled to pay no tax. The scheme announced is actually a revival of two similar schemes in the past, both of which failed to achieve the intended objective.

2. MAT will affect a company's liquidity, availability of funds for expansion, modernisation and declaration of dividends.

3. An adverse effect on corporate saving and investment cannot be ruled out. It would indeed be unfortunate if, at a time when the private corporate sector saving and investment are showing a rising trend, taxation acts as a dampener.

4. The introduction of MAT will discourage managers and shareholders from reporting higher book incomes in the years their tax liability is below 12 per cent of the book income. This behaviour has been observed in the US corporations in the years following the introduction of the alternative minimum tax in 1986. The more successful the companies are in reporting lower book income, the lesser the tax collected by the government. Therefore, MAT is expected to generate lesser tax revenue than based on a naive extrapolation of current book income into the future. Moreover, it would also motivate companies to expend real resources on socially unproductive activities like the use of creative accounting to shield book income.

## Almatti Dam

**Q.** The dispute over the Krishna waters has been in the news especially with the State of Andhra Pradesh de-

manding stoppage of work at the Almatti dam site. Discuss the controversy and comment on the various ways to resolve river water disputes.

**Ans.** There has been a lot of controversy generated over the Almatti river dam. Not only is it a source of tension between the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, but also that of major discussions about resolving of river water disputes. Among major topics of discussion have been whether States can be given autonomy to build dams over rivers which flow across States. Also, what is the feasibility of a national policy to balance the interests of people in the lower and riparian regions. Moreover, there have been arguments for and against the building of the Almatti dam.

### Arguments Against

People in Andhra have said that in the case of Almatti, the reservoir being built is two-and-a half times the requirements. The canal system which is in progress has the facility to draw nearly double the requirements.

It is argued that experience shows it is near impossible to limit the use of water to agreed quantities once additional storage and infrastructural facilities are created. This is not only because of the pressures but also due to inherent weakness of not being able to forecast and gauge the inflows of water into reservoirs on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Monitoring would be effective to some extent only when the reservoirs are constructed to the optimum size on sound techno-economical lines. Also, when large capacity reservoirs are provided for, the release of water for downstream users gets automatically reduced and delayed, resulting in time lag in the availability of water for tail-end regions. Andhra Pradesh feels it is unfair to build an oversized reservoir at Almatti, by an upper State like

Karnataka. Karnataka, they say, is resorting to gross violations of the Krishna Water Distribution Tribunal award of Bachawat.

#### Arguments For

People who support the building of the dam have, however, pointed out that the Bachawat award on the Krishna basin waters had authorised the use of 734 tmc ft by Karnataka and 800 tms ft by Andhra Pradesh. Whereas Andhra Pradesh has used up its share of 800 tmc ft, Karnataka has not been able to do so because of resource crunch. Now, the State is interested in investing about Rs 1200 crores this year. The effort of the State is to use the irrigation project as a multipurpose project to generate cheap hydel power. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has promised that the water from this dam will not be used for irrigation purposes.

Moreover, it has been pointed out that it should not be difficult to monitor and enforce an agreement when all concerned are informed of the values which are necessary in programme planning and implementation. There is already an example where a combined authority has been constituted by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for regulating the release of Tungabhadra waters. Two States can easily exhibit willingness to share equitably any resource, be it water or electricity.

While the two different sides present their own versions of the controversy, this debate has raised many questions about resolving water disputes. The real objection in this case is that farmers in the upper riparian region can consume more water than they are allowed by the agreement, if Karnataka is allowed to build reservoirs. However, the fact is that there are many other ways of diverting water. If farmers in the upper riparian region take more water, it is for the government in that State to exercise its authority to stop them.

Moreover, if people in the lower riparian region wish to regulate the supply of water, they can build another reservoir downstream.

#### Housewives Bill

**Q. Recently, the Housewives (Com-**

**pulsory Weekly Holiday from Domestic Chores) Bill, 1996 was tabled in the Rajya Sabha. This has raised many questions about the rights of women in households. Discuss the various aspects related to the bill and give arguments for and against such a bill.**

**Ans.** *The Housewives Bill, 1996 provides that: Notwithstanding any custom, convention, ritual or tradition, it shall be the duty of the family members, particularly of the head of the family, to ask every housewife ('Housewife' means a woman, with or without children, whose occupation is looking after her family by doing the domestic chores) to select a particular day of the week as a holiday from all domestic chores so as to enable her to take rest and enjoy the day according to her pleasure. On a day so chosen as holiday by the housewife, it shall be the duty of the other family members to do all the domestic chores ('domestic chores' include the work done in a house such as cleaning, cooking, dusting, washing and such other activities) of that day and complete it the same day and provide all the facilities to the housewife so as to enable her to enjoy the holiday. Any family member ('family members' include the husband, in-laws, sons, daughters and other close relatives of a housewife living in the family) who goes against these provisions will be liable to a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.*

*The law has been dismissed by many as a joke in the Parliament. In a country where elementary labour laws are not implemented in various industries, the idea of implementing a law to provide a compulsory weekly holiday to housewives is likely to be dismissed. There have been various arguments for and against such implementation.*

#### Arguments For

1. Indian women, especially those living in rural areas, combining farm work with housework, are among the most overworked women in the world. Most women are not even respected for the 15 to 16 hours of daily toil and drudgery in order to keep the family going. These women need better nutrition and less drudgery every day of the week—not just once in a while.

2. The Bill is a good way to begin a dialogue on the inequitable nature of the family and the matrimonial tie. Despite 50

years of independence and the constitutional right to equality, there is lack of spontaneous give-and-take in marriage.

3. This Bill is a step to ensure that work is shared by imposing 'duties' on the family members which have so far been conveniently ignored, even in nuclear and non-joint families.

#### Arguments Against

1. The legality attached with housework makes the whole situation very complicated. In a number of households, women give importance to their own participation in the household work. In matters that are related to individual households, it is difficult to decide about the exact running of the house. For one thing, the woman might not want to take the day off. In case her children are sick on that day, she would not want to take any leave. The woman cannot be prevented from nursing her children.

2. The question of a weekly day off cannot apply to 70 per cent of the people who are engaged in agriculture. The agricultural cycle is completely different from the urban job sector. The time of harvest and sowing are periods of peak activity when women and the entire family cannot afford to waste even a moment. Therefore, the concept of a weekly day off cannot be applied here.

3. Implementing such a law is practically difficult. Courts are already flooded with litigation. Lawyers would be the only people who would make money.

4. There is a need to recognise that the unequal work burden on women is actually a symptom of the imbalance in the power relations between men and women in the family. There is a need for people to work out better arrangements within themselves in their homes. The basic problem that women face is economic dependence. Legislations alone are not a solution to this imbalance. It can play some part though.

#### Gender Equality (Ways and Strategies)

**Q. Women all over the world are said to be undervalued in terms of their work contribution. Various Human De-**

velopment Reports have suggested ways to equalize gender opportunities. Enumerate some of the ways highlighting how these can help women.

**Ans.** There has been a growing realisation about the need for a concrete strategy to equalize gender opportunities—a strategy, that would accelerate the pace of change. There is a lot that needs to be done in each society to improve gender equality. National plans of action are required, with quantitative targets combining the elements of measures to overcome legal discrimination and specific policy measures to restructure social and institutional norms. There can, thus, be various ways to remove gender inequality.

First, there can be a timetable formulated to eliminate legal discrimination. There is a need to move beyond existing laws and rules. There is not very strict punishment formulated for mass violence against women. Mass rape and torture of women are actions that should be brought to public scrutiny. These should be treated as crimes deserving severe punishment. There should be greater transparency and accountability. People can assist pressure groups and political lobbies through dissemination of relevant information to build strong alliances for change. Legal literacy campaigns can be organized to make women fully aware of their legal rights. Access to legal systems for women should be made easier.

Second, there can be certain changes in social and institutional norms. The present behavioural and institutional norms, based on gender roles rooted deep in history, make it difficult for women to participate in paid employment and in politics. Certain ways of doing this are to encourage men to participate in family care, permitting flexible work schedules, expanding the concept of public services to include public day care centres and school lunches. Also, tax and social security incentives can be changed to accommodate family structures different from the one breadwinner, two-adult family norm. Once women are recognised as 'breadwinners', that can become a convincing basis for a more equitable sharing of rights in property, inheritance and divorce. There should

also be improvements in information on women's work, including the valuation of unpaid work.

Third, efforts have to be made to increase access to economic and political opportunities. Programmes should be formulated to enable people, particularly women, to gain greater access to economic and political opportunities. Some elements of such a programme can be basic social services for all (basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water, family planning services, nutrition) reproductive health care, credit for poor people, sustainable livelihood for all (self-employment schemes, micro enterprises, opportunities to enter the market), targetted programmes for poverty reduction and capacity building and empowerment.

### Amendment Procedure

**Q. What are the methods of amendments of the Indian Constitution? Critically evaluate the procedure of Amendments.**

**Ans.** It has been said that constitutions develop through usages, judicial interpretations and by amendments. In fact, on the basis of the method of the constitutional amendments, constitutions are of two types—flexible Constitution which can be amended through simple majority just like an ordinary law and Rigid Constitution, which is given superior position over the ordinary law and which can be amended only through special majority. The Indian Constitution is a mixture of rigidity and flexibility.

To amend the Constitution of India, there are various methods. About 80 amendments and four schedules of the Indian Constitution can be amended by the Parliament with simple majority. Second, certain Amendments can be done by the Parliament with 2/3 majority. Third, there are certain Articles which can be amended only with 2/3 majority of the Parliament and approval of the 1/2 State Legislatures.

Like ordinary bills, the approval of the President over constitutional amendment Bills is necessary. Before 1971, it was not obligatory for the President to give approval but under 24th Amendment the

provision has been provided that the President cannot refuse to give his approval. So, the approval of the President over the constitutional amendment bill is just a formality. Moreover, the Parliament does not have unlimited power to amend the Constitution. In the famous *Keshwanand Bharti Case*, the Supreme Court had made it clear that the Parliament does not have the power to alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.

The procedure of Amendments in India has certain inherent weaknesses which need to be removed:

**1. Dominance of the Centre:** India is a federal country comprising a double administration—in the Centre and the States. But the major portion of the Constitution can be amended by the Parliament with 2/3 majority and there is no need of approval of the States over it.

**2. States cannot initiate amendments:** In India the States do not have the right to initiate constitutional amendments.

**3. No time limit for State approval:** In certain cases, although there is need for approval of 1/2 State Legislatures, there is no time limit for the approval. Therefore, this causes unnecessary delays in the amendment procedure.

**4. No provision of referendum:** In the Preamble, we accept that the sovereign power in India rests with the citizens but there is no provision for any referendum on constitutional amendments. This is quite contrary to the concept of sovereignty.

**5. No provision to resolve deadlock:** In case of deadlock between both the Houses of the Parliament over any constitutional amendment, there is no provision for any resolution of the deadlock. A number of times, due to deadlock between both the Houses of the Parliament, many good constitutional amendments get rejected.

**6. Rigidity in Constitution:** Some critics feel that the Indian Constitution is over-rigid, as it is very difficult to get 2/3 majority of the Union Parliament and it is still difficult to get approval of 1/2 of the State legislatures. Therefore, sometimes it becomes difficult to change the Constitution according to the need of the time.

## 50th Year of India's Independence

### 1st Prize



Atoorva Sinha, from Aurawan in Lucknow district of U.P., is a graduate from University of Allahabad. She is currently doing her M.A. in Public Administration.

Atoorva sent a poem, which takes off from Tagore's famous line "We are far away from the ideal of freedom." She writes: "Instead of the rule of the white man, we have the 'raj' of very powerful, rich and influential browns, who though quite few in number, unhesitatingly and dishonestly dominate all other Indians."

*Where the mind is free and the head is held high ..*

*Where private armies are not kept to murder and massacre.*

*Where carpet exports do not grow on the blood of child labourers. Where admissions and jobs depend on merit and not on caste. Where kidneys of patients are not stolen in hospitals.*

*Where mafia dons exist only in fiction and not in Parliament. Where there are no great inequalities.*

*Where the government is led by leaders and not by swamis and tantrics.*

*Where public servants do not live luxurious lives on public money.*

*Where wives are not burnt in the tandoor.*

*Where women are respected and not sold into prostitution. Where the police protects and does not harass or extort. Where politics is clean and business is fair.*

*Where health and education are more important than mandir or masjid.*

*Where common people are not subject to injustices.*

*Where every man tries to be a T.N. Seshan...*

*...Into that heaven of freedom.  
Lead my country awake!*

When we announced in our August issue that we would like to hear from our readers, it was with the hope that our readers would tell us what really it felt to be an Indian. With 988 entries (and more pouring in as we went to the press), our hope is more than fulfilled. We received entries from all parts of India, showing the interest of our readers in the country. There was approximately equal participation from the girls as well as boys, though the girls turned out to be much more expressive. Considering the diverse backgrounds of the respondents, we can safely assume that the views represent the thinking of the Indian youth from across the country. After a careful process, we finally arrived at the prize winning entries which we are publishing here. We congratulate the winners. The notable thoughts of other readers will be carried in our subsequent issues.

### 2nd Prize



A.B. Rajasekaran is doing his engineering from Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu. He is passionate about inequalities and says, "If I come to hold the country's highest office, I will

make sure that the last citizen of the country gets his rights."

"Freedom—We got it at midnight, it has not dawned yet", so wrote a Tamil poet. We have made great strides in many fields after independence: a dozen satellites, many power plants, the Pokhran test and the Agni missiles. We are self-sufficient in agriculture and industry is also looking up.

At the same time, there has been a great decline in public morality. The dynamic leadership that existed once has completely vanished. Today's politicians and

bureaucrats have become the greatest enemies of the people. Our freedom exists in words but we are tied up by our own power brokers.

Though we are in shambles today, I am sure that we can recover. We have miles to go and show the world that this land does not produce a mushroom grown under the shadow of a tree but a flower born from the fire of sacrifice. I am sure that real freedom will dawn in this land of ours.

### 3rd Prize



Premalatha Venugopal studies in Class XI of Naval Public School in Mumbai. She has lived abroad for many years and her response is that of an NRI coming back to the

country after a long time.

The first image that came to my mind when I thought of India was the sight of palm trees swaying in the breeze. When I saw India for the first time, the real India hit my senses—dirty, unpainted buildings, roads peppered with potholes and cluttered with garbage, my heart ached seeing the hordes of poor, unclothed, hungry beggars who filled the pavements, who had no real homes to call their own.

Sometimes I wish I could just wave a magic wand and create the India of my dreams—a clean place with no pollution, trees everywhere, good roads and neat homes. More important, a home for every family and education, clothes and jobs as well.

When I was abroad, I used to say with unquestionable pride that I was an Indian. I wonder if I ever went back and was asked the same question, would I still have the tenor of pride in my voice? I really can't be sure. But sometimes, when I hear the national anthem or sare jahan se acha, I feel a surge of something which can only be described as love and hope for my country and this feeling is what being an Indian means to me.

## 50th Year of India's Independence

### Consolation Prizes



Joseline Mouttapa is from Pondicherry. She is currently doing her MCA from Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu

*Our golden jubilee year is a jubilant occasion. I am proud to be an Indian, which allows unequalled freedom to its citizens. Our economic resilience is most remarkable and though we may not have done remarkably well, we have not been too bad either. Our success in agriculture is truly amazing and the white revolution has made the self-sufficiency in milk a worldwide success story. Today we are self-sufficient in many consumer and industrial goods, which have increased both in quantity and quality. Life expectancy has also increased.*

*At present, India is on the threshold of becoming a superpower. In the field of computers, we have produced the best brains that the world has. We do have some failings but these are not so great that they cannot be rectified.*

*Given a chance, I would want to be reborn as an Indian once again.*



Divya Sinha is a graduate currently preparing for her RBI entrance and other competitive examinations. She lives in Nalco Nagar in Angul district of Orissa.

*To me freedom does not mean freedom from foreign rule alone but also from poverty, insecurity, communalism and casteism. I feel that India's independence is the most precious possession. In fact, had it not been for freedom, I would not have been able to express my views independently.*

*I dream of India which has surged ahead of all nations in terms of humanity and development. Should I have the opportunity, I would try to cleanse the country of corruption. I know that faith and confidence can get you the moon. So, as we enter the fiftieth year of independence, I am confident that we will be able to uphold the ideals of freedom which we gained at great cost 49 years ago.*



Pandya Vimalkumar B. lives in Amreli in Gujarat. He has done his Bachelor of Fisheries and intends to continue studies in this field.

*It is unfortunate that a sense of irresponsibility has befallen the Indian people. But it is wrong to blame the politicians alone, since they could not have continued in this way without the support of the people. Corruption is one of the most serious problems and people should learn to stand up against it and expose it. Leaders who are corrupt will dare not go to the people for votes if this awareness comes. I am sure in this way corruption can be wiped out.*



Vani V. Rao lives in Dharwad, Karnataka, where she studies in the second year of B.Sc.

*In the past, our great leaders were a uniting force. But today, no one is trustworthy. Our selfish leaders cannot unite the country.*

*Dreams have no limitations. I dream of an India which does not have the three major problems of population, poverty and illiteracy. A country where wildlife is safe, since all animals should have their home.*



Ashish Mahajan is a commerce graduate from Chandigarh and is now preparing for his MBA exams.

*The growth of our economy has not been very satisfactory, but considerable progress has been made in several areas like food, employment, industrial output and even reduction of poverty. Exports are also showing signs of increasing. We have our own missiles like Agni and Prithvi, which have boosted our defence. In computers, we have been able to build the Param supercomputer. Overall, our growth has been satisfactory but not as good as other countries which started out at about the same time.*

*What I am ashamed of is corruption and prejudices which dominate our society. These have overshadowed some of better tendencies.*

*I dream of an India as a self sufficient nation, free from avaricious politicians and corrupt bureaucrats. This would mean rejuvenating the vigour of the youth, which at present is not only misguided but is also at a low ebb. This can be done by decentralising our administrative set up and by implementing the Lokpal and Lokayukt scheme.*



Santosh Rajagopalan belongs to Mumbai and is presently doing B.E. in Electronics and Communications from Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu.

*When I say I am proud to be an Indian, I do not have in mind the shambles that the country is in now. I do not want to think about the scams, the sex scandals and our dismal performance in sports. I think of a nation that could have been*

*I think of a country whose sheer diversity would have kept it vibrant. I see the lush green fields of Punjab and the mangroves of Kerala. I see the rich wildlife and the majestic hills of Himachal. Then, there is the great potential of a country that produced great works like the Arthashastra and the science of Ayurveda. Unfortunately, much of our glory lies in the past.*

*If I have the chance to change something, I would change attitudes of the people: towards work, towards the country and towards society. We have huge resources and a rich land. What is required is a change of heart in the people and in our leaders. Is that too much to expect?*



Saba Mahmood is doing her B.A. at University of Allahabad. She also has a diploma in French and loves debates and writing

*Freedom is a misty dawn for India. We face the nation's fiftieth year under the stress and strain of bitter realities. The dreams of the freedom fighters, I fear, have not been fulfilled. To be proud of the nation*

## 50th Year of India's Independence

yet bemoan its shortcomings are contradictory things. Yes, I am proud, but there is so much more to be done. All of us have to stand up and do our bit for our country. Only then will we be on the path of prosperity.



Sukanya Chatterjee is doing her Economics Honours and lives in Chandannagar in West Bengal.

Being a student, I can understand the moral confusion in the minds of young people with political scandals being exposed everyday. We do not know who or what is right. We are desperately in search of a person whom we can trust, but are not able to find one. Given a chance, I would open several institutions all over India and invite economic experts to help us with their suggestions to increase productivity. The process is difficult, but what is life without a challenge?



Pragnya Das has done her B.Sc in Home Science and is now doing her post graduation in food and nutrition. She lives in Bhillai in Madhya Pradesh.

Changing human attitude will be a challenge but given the opportunity, I would like to change the political arena, since it is on the verge of destroying the nation. Politicians should be made to go through a rigorous selection before they can compete in elections. If we don't have this, we will continue selecting greedy and corrupt leaders who will take us down to a point of no return. We should follow the example of Korea where the convicted leaders have been given a death sentence.



Appu Joseph Jose is a graduate from Thodupuzha in Kerala.

Though India has had many achievements, there have also been several disappointments. Poverty, unemployment

and illiteracy are some of them. The gap between the rich and the poor is constantly increasing. We are seeing a disregard for laws and civic sense.

There is, however, a light at the end of the tunnel. Lessening of controls has resulted in higher economic growth, and the cynicism of the youth is ebbing away. My vision of India is of a country where democracy, pluralism and excellence thrives. Every person should have basic necessities of life. I pray and hope that I can see such an India within our lifetime.



Rajshree Das is doing her Agricultural Engineering from Bhubaneswar.

Fifty years is a long time to make a nation. On the one hand it presents a picture of Mera Bharat Mahan but on the other, there is unemployment and overpopulation. The chasm between the rich and the poor has widened. The youth is leading a confused life of contra-culture.

The greatest asset of India is the spirit of its people, the 'we feeling' and the faith to renovate the nation. An indication of this is the peace and harmony with which people of different communities live here. In this respect, we are a model to the rest of the world. I am proud to belong to the world's largest democracy.



Pampi Ghosh is a student of Botany from Calcutta University.

First, it was the British who were plundering our nation and now our leaders are doing the same. There seems to be no difference between India before independence and now.

India is today overpopulated, poor and corrupted. The young people are aimless and unemployed. The brilliant become jobless due to caste-based reservation. Our leaders use casteism for their own benefit. If our talent is given better opportunities, the brain drain will stop and India could become developed

instead of a developing country. It is indeed sad that young persons have to leave the country to make their fortunes whereas our own country does not offer proper venues for work and reward.



Dipak Choudhary is from Mughalsarai in U.P. He is doing his B.A. and his hobbies are reading and writing.

For me, post independent India means a mixture of opposites—too many laws but little justice; too many public servants but little public service; too many values but little done in practice; too many promises but little delivery; huge potential but little realisation. Being Indians, we should find Indian solutions to Indian problems. We ought to create an administration that is better suited to our own culture. One thing that can be done is to strengthen Panchayati raj by giving panchayats more funds and powers. People should be empowered to take decisions concerning them and determine their own path of progress. Rather than waiting for the government to take action for them, they will feel motivated to solve their own problems. Gram sabhas would bring democracy to the people, restore faith in our secularism and redeem our resolve to remove the scourge of overpopulation, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and malnutrition.



Amit Gupta studies in class 8 of St Joseph's Convent School in Ferozepur. His hobbies are quizzing and debating.

Being an Indian, one would not like to criticise one's own country, but the fact is that India enjoyed glory and respect only in the past. Today, we owe millions of rupees to the World Bank and we may be heading towards another slavery, if not of another country, then that of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy.

Our politicians have contaminated the life of the common people. We see scandals all around us showing that our national character has declined.

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Computer Science

Computer science is the body of knowledge pertaining to the automatic processing of symbolic information. The most important device for such processing is the computer. Computer scientists investigate the capabilities of automatic computation and develop effective algorithms, symbolic representations, and processors for such computation.

For the automatic manipulation of information, which can take the form of numbers, text, or other symbolic representations of concepts or data, the digital computer can be programmed to perform many diverse operations. With the aid of a computer, a business planner can find the solution to a large system of linear equations; a molecular biologist can compare the chemical structures of the genes of different organisms; an engineer can prepare the design of a new device. The computer can also process concepts, if given their encoded, symbolic representations and a set of rules for dealing with them.

As a science of an artificial symbolic world rather than of the natural world, computer science does not have naturally predefined boundaries. Many of the problems worthy of intellectual pursuit evolve with technological breakthroughs and with new areas of computer application. The interaction between the science and computer engineering is vital, and in many instances it is the rigorous pursuit of knowledge rather than the goal of constructing an economically viable artifact that classifies a project as a scholarly enterprise.

The crucial developments that led to the establishment of computer science were fundamental theoretical discoveries concerning automatic computation that were made in the 1930s and the development of the general-purpose stored-program electronic digital computer in the 1940s. The

deeper roots of computer science, however, lie in the efforts, undertaken throughout the centuries, to design mechanical devices for numeric computation and for reasoning. The interplay of theoretical and practical discoveries continues to influence the development of the science: its progress alternates between the invention of novel system organizations or new programming languages and the analysis of the results of those developments.

The history of the tools of computation begins with the invention of the abacus several thousand years ago, perhaps in Babylonia. The first calculating devices to have a major influence on the modern world, however, were the mechanical calculators built in the 17th century by Blaise Pascal of France and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz of Germany.

## Computer architecture

The organization of the hardware components of computer systems has been based to a large degree on the so-called von Neumann machine. In this hardware design a single stream of machine-language instructions is applied to a single stream of data, both instructions and data residing in a common memory. The technique most often used to design the control unit (which translates and executes instructions) of computers, called microprogramming, was invented by Wilkes in 1951 and implemented in 1964. The organization of computer memory into a hierarchy of units with varying speeds and capacities was formulated in the late 1950s and early '60s. Multiprocessor designs, where two or more processors share a common memory, have been operational since the early 1960s.

In 1965 the first commercial minicomputer was installed. Although less power-

ful than mainframe (large-scale) computers, minicomputers found a wide market because they are cost-effective in many scientific and business applications. Continued efforts at size reduction resulted in the development of the microprocessor, a central processor that consists of a single silicon chip, in 1971. At about this time, it became apparent that further increases in processing speed would have to come from advances in architectural design rather than from increases in the speed of the electronic components. Innovative designs of supercomputers and of multiprocessors with large numbers of processors were produced, and some were implemented. While some of these designs are extensions of the von Neumann architecture, others constitute radical departures.

Rudimentary computer networks emerged in the late 1950s. Intensive research and development in this area, starting in 1968, has resulted in networks that permit a broad range of user access and worldwide resource sharing. Local-area network techniques were developed in the 1970s to connect computer systems within limited areas, such as a building or a campus.

## Programming languages and methodology

The original method of programming, in which each instruction had to be expressed in the binary machine language of 1s and 0s, was tedious and impractical. Therefore, it became necessary to develop programming languages that would help humans to communicate more easily with computers. Mnemonic representations of instructions and data, which appeared in the late 1940s, soon evolved into assembly languages, each specific to a family of computers.

Assembly languages were still too inconvenient for large programming tasks. Higher-level languages (those closer to natural, or human, languages) were needed. Such machine-independent languages would facilitate algorithmic problem solving. The study of the syntax and semantics of higher-level programming languages and the research on their software translators have become a subfield of computer science. The first program for translating a higher-level language into machine language, called a compiler, was developed in 1952.

Although research on higher-level languages was begun in 1945 by the German engineer Konrad Zuse, the first reasonably complete such language, FORTRAN I, was developed during the years 1954 to 1956. The field reached maturity with the introduction, in 1963, of the language ALGOL 60, which offered a well-defined set of structures for controlling execution flow and the scope of data entities. This language soon became generally accepted for algorithmic notation.

The late 1950s saw the development of LISP, the fundamental language of artificial intelligence. In 1960 COBOL emerged as the language of data processing; it demonstrated the importance of separating the definitions of data from the procedural components of a program. In the mid-1960s BASIC was introduced as a simple language for interactive computing, a then-novel mode of user-system communication.

In the early 1970s Pascal (based on ALGOL) was developed as a simple and efficient language for methodical, structured programming, and C was invented as a language for programming operating systems.

## Operating systems

Originally, programmers had to operate computers themselves. In 1956 the first software monitor was created to give programmers easier access to the hardware. Operating systems thus emerged as a means of organizing the resources of a computer system for easy use and efficient management. The first operating systems

of the 1950s increased the speed of computer processing by permitting batch processing, in which a series of different programs could be executed without interruption: as each one ended, the next was automatically initiated.

In the early 1960s multiprogramming operating systems were created to maintain several programs simultaneously in a state of execution in order to make more efficient use of the hardware resources. Virtual memory, a concept formulated in 1959, made it possible to apparently extend the main memory space to accommodate these multiple programs. Time-sharing operating systems, invented in the early 1960s, schedule the access of many users to a single processor. Because a computer can execute millions of operations per second and because human reaction time is slow, many users can interact with the system at one time. The late 1960s saw a consolidation of batch, time-sharing, and "real-time" (driven by external signals that require rapid response) modes in large operating systems.

The experience gained in the development of these systems led to the systematic study of operating systems. In 1965 the crucial problem in developing operating systems was recognized as the management of interacting parallel processes. In 1968 it was shown how to structure an operating system as layers of routines, each performing a limited and specific function.

## Role of Computer Science

Since the computer has become an ever-present force in human affairs, computer science has played an increasingly important role in the way people work, live their private lives, organize their activities in society, and, to an extent, perceive themselves. The ubiquitous microprocessor and the evolving combination of computers, telecommunications, and large data bases are changing the complexion of life in industrialized societies.

Computer science also has influenced the entire family of scientific disciplines. Work in the field has led to the development of tools that have the potential of

expanding the methodology of science.

The computer, particularly when combined with communications technology, has made it possible to handle the vast amount of information that is needed to increase the efficiency of production, management, and government. What is sometimes called the "information revolution" is thus bringing to fruition the advantages of the mechanization that was fostered by the Industrial Revolution, which began in the late 1700s.

Computer science is intimately related to many disciplines of knowledge. Although it is mostly empirical, its basic tools are mathematics and logic. Computer science furnishes other sciences and technologies with intellectual tools in addition to hardware and software—namely, techniques of process-oriented thinking. Modern particle physics owes many of its recent achievements to powerful computers that control experiments and analyze data. Molecular biologists use computerized machines for establishing the genetic structure of living organisms, knowledge that can be used to develop new drugs and improve breeds of live-stock and strains of plants. Ecologists rely on computer models of the human body to estimate its response to chemical substances.

The manipulation of computer models furnishes a new mode of scientific understanding and blurs the distinction between theory and experiment. Computers provide new tools for conducting scientific enterprises and have proved to be a true intellectual technology. Geographically distant scholars, working on common problems, now can be united on a computer network into an "invisible college". From information bases offering access to the exploding body of scientific knowledge, individual investigators can forge their own bases of information by means of the so-called hypertext system, which enables them to link related aspects of their respective studies.

Not the least of the contributions of computer science, artificial intelligence has promoted the emergence of cognitive science that deals with the problems of knowledge, understanding, inference, and learning.

# The Examiner's Guess Questions

**Q.** Where and when is the Second Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art Scheduled to be held?

**Ans.** Brisbane, from September 27 to January 19. The event will be organised by the Queensland Gallery, and will include more than 100 artists from various Asian countries. Vivan Sundaram, Nilima Sheikh, N.N. Rimzon, Mrinalini Mukherjee and Nalini Malani will represent Indian Art at this event.

**Q.** What is the name of India's first Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV), that was flight-tested in the month of August?

**Ans.** *Nishant*. It is designed to undertake accurate navigation to designated target points (for aerial reconnaissance purposes) and extended in flying missions lasting several hours with electro-optic and photographic payloads.

Remote controlled by sophisticated digital microwave radio link from ground, *Nishant* is capable of surviving electronic interference by the enemy.

*Nishant* has been launched jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Aeronautical development Establishment, Bangalore.

**Q.** What is *Divya Yatra*?

**Ans.** *Divya Yatra* is a scheme to bring popular television serials to the masses, with the help of several video vans or *Rathis*, equipped with a portable screen, video projection and audio equipment.

These video vans will go to distant places in a State on a designated route and schedule, and will hold two-hour shows at each place.

**Q.** What do the recently submitted Nitish Sengupta Committee recommendations pertain to?

**Ans.** The recommendations are for a comprehensive broadcasting Bill pertaining to the Prasar Bharati Act, which have

been submitted to the government.

**Q.** The Almatti Dam dispute involves which two Indian States?

**Ans.** Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

**Q.** In which city are the tallest twin buildings in the world being constructed?

**Ans.** Kuala Lumpur. The Petronas Twin Towers will be 88 storeys each, when completed.

**Q.** During whose reign was the 17th century work *Badshahnama* commissioned, and what does it portray?

**Ans.** The *Badshahnama* was commissioned by Shahjahan, and it is a collection of miniature paintings that illustrate several aspect of the life and times of the emperor. The only surviving volume is in England, after the Nawab of Oudh, having purchased it from the Mughal Court for Rs 12,000, presented it to Governor-General Lord Teignmouth in 1797.

**Q.** What is the name of the text that contains the present form of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)?

**Ans.** The Ramakar text.

**Q.** Which is the Indian company that is involved in the launching a joint venture to form the Cairo Funds Management Ltd (CFM) in Egypt?

**Ans.** United Trust of India (UTI). Its maiden mutual fund scheme will be launched along with the Export Development Bank of Egypt (FDBE) and the Paris-based Indo-Suez Asset Management. The Cairo Funds Management will collect 100 million Egyptian pounds for the scheme.

**Q.** The GVK Industries recently announced its commencement of a 235 MW gas-based power project. Where is this project situated and what is the significance of this project?

**Ans.** Jegurupadu, Andhra Pradesh.

It is India's first private power project after the announcement of the private sector power policy by the government of India.

**Q.** How many one-rupee coins and notes were in circulation during the year 1995-96?

**Ans.** According to the RBI, there were Rs 115 crore coins and notes in circulation during 1995-96. The total currency notes which were in circulation during the same period were worth Rs 1,20,073, and those held in the banking department were about Rs 35 crore.

**Q.** What is the purpose of the Brand Equity Fund set up by the Union Commerce Ministry?

**Ans.** It is expected to promote a reverse flow in brand acquisitions by helping corporates acquire big international brands on sale, and to build them up as Indian brands in the international markets. Uptill now, it was Indian brands that were being acquired by the multinationals (e.g., Coca Cola acquired the Parle brands).

**Q.** Which is the new railway zone created recently?

**Ans.** Bhubaneswar, in Orissa. The other five zonal headquarters are Allahabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Hazipur and Jabalpur.

**Q.** Which is the Indian company that will be the first to set up an Object Technology Centre (OTC).

**Ans.** WIPRO systems in Bangalore. This Object Technology Centre will train software developers to think differently in terms of building blocks and creating object-oriented software.

**Q.** Which are the two child welfare state councils that recently got the Radha Raman awards for excellence in the field of child welfare?

**Ans.** Karnataka and West Bengal.

## Appointments Etc

### APPOINTED; ELECTED ETC

**Vice-Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat:** As special-ist in Communications and Electronic Warfare, he has been appointed as the next Chief of Indian Navy.

**J.S. Chhatwal:** He has been appointed as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

**Vijay K. Nambiar:** He is India's new Ambassador to China.

**C. Dasgupta:** He has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Belgium.

### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

**Prakash Chandra Lohani:** Nepalese For-

eign Minister.

**Navinchandra Ramgoolam:** Prime Minister of Mauritius.

**Malcom Rifkind:** Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of United Kingdom.

### DIED

**Sir Frank Whittle:** Inventor of the jet engine in 1928, as he was a young cadet in the Royal Air Force. He died at the age of 89 at Baltimore, USA.

**Ashok Sen:** Former Union Minister and leading Supreme Court advocate. He was 83.

## EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 13—J & K Governor K.V. Krishna Rao issues notification for the first phase of polling in 26 of the 87 constituencies in the State.
- After 8 days of fierce fighting in Grozny, Russian and Chechen separatist commanders agree to a cease-fire throughout the rebel republic of Chechnya.
- 14—At least 10 people are killed and several injured in Karachi as unidentified gunmen open fire with automatic weapons on a rally staged by a Sunni fundamentalist party.
- Negotiations to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) reach a dead end in Geneva as growing dissent brings formal meetings to a halt.
- 16—In a major CBI raid, Rs 3 crores in cash is recovered from the houses of the former Communications Minister, Mr Sukh Ram.
- 18—Suspected United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) insurgents attack and kill 13 security personnel in Nalbari district of Assam.
- 20—Despite India's veto to block a consensus, the Geneva Conference on Disarmament approves a status report on the CTBT. India had earlier rejected the treaty.
- 22—The Supreme Court refuses to quash a Delhi court order summoning former

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to appear as co-accused in Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case.

23—Nearly 250 pilgrims lose their lives due to bad weather, en-route to the shrine of Shri Amarnath in Jammu & Kashmir.

26—Former South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan is sentenced to death for his role in the 1979 military coup and the subsequent massacre of pro-democracy protestors in Southern Kwangju city. His successor and co-accused Roh Tae-woo is awarded a twenty two-and-a-half-year imprisonment.

28—The 15-year old marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana of United Kingdom ends with the issue of a decree in a London divorce court.

29—The Election Commission announces that elections to the 425 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh would be held from September 30, in three phases.

—All 141 passengers and crew are killed when a Russian air-liner crashes on the remote Arctic island of Spitzbergen in Norway.

### SEPTEMBER

- 3—US forces fire 27 cruise missiles on Iraq to punish Saddam Hussain for an assault on Kurdish rebels.
- 4—US fires 17 more missiles at military

installations of Iraq.

—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meets President Yasser Arafat of Palestine for the first time after taking office three months ago.

6—A special judge, Mr V.B. Gupta, orders framing of charges against Mr L.K. Advani, President of the BJP, in the Jain-Hawala case.

—Four JMM leaders, including a sitting MP Shibhu Soren, are arrested by the CBI for their alleged involvement in the Rs 3.5 crore bribery case. It is alleged that the four leaders had accepted the money in 1993 to vote against a no-confidence motion against Narasimha Rao government.

7—More than 50 per cent polling is reported in the first phase of Assembly polls in 26 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir. The polling is held successfully despite unprovoked firing and shelling by Pakistani troops in five sectors and a boycott call by the All-Party Kashmir Hurriyat Conference.

8—Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda warns Pakistan to refrain from fomenting trouble in Jammu and Kashmir, or face the consequences

## MILESTONES

**Vasant Madhve Shenoy:** The youngest entrepreneur in Mumbai, and possibly in India. He has launched his own computer firm called "Infinity Inc". He has started his business on his own, without any loans.

### General Awareness

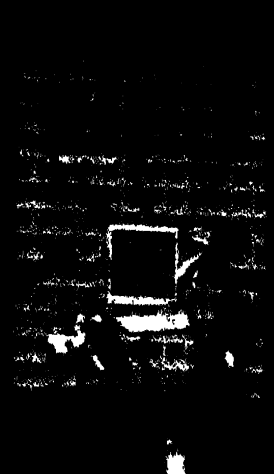
#### Corrections

July '96 issue Pages 1080 and 1081. Answer to Q. 18 and 23 is (b) and (d) respectively.

Aug '96 issue Page 39. Answer to questions 3, 7 and 48 is (c), (c) and (b) respectively.

The mistakes are regretted.

—Editor



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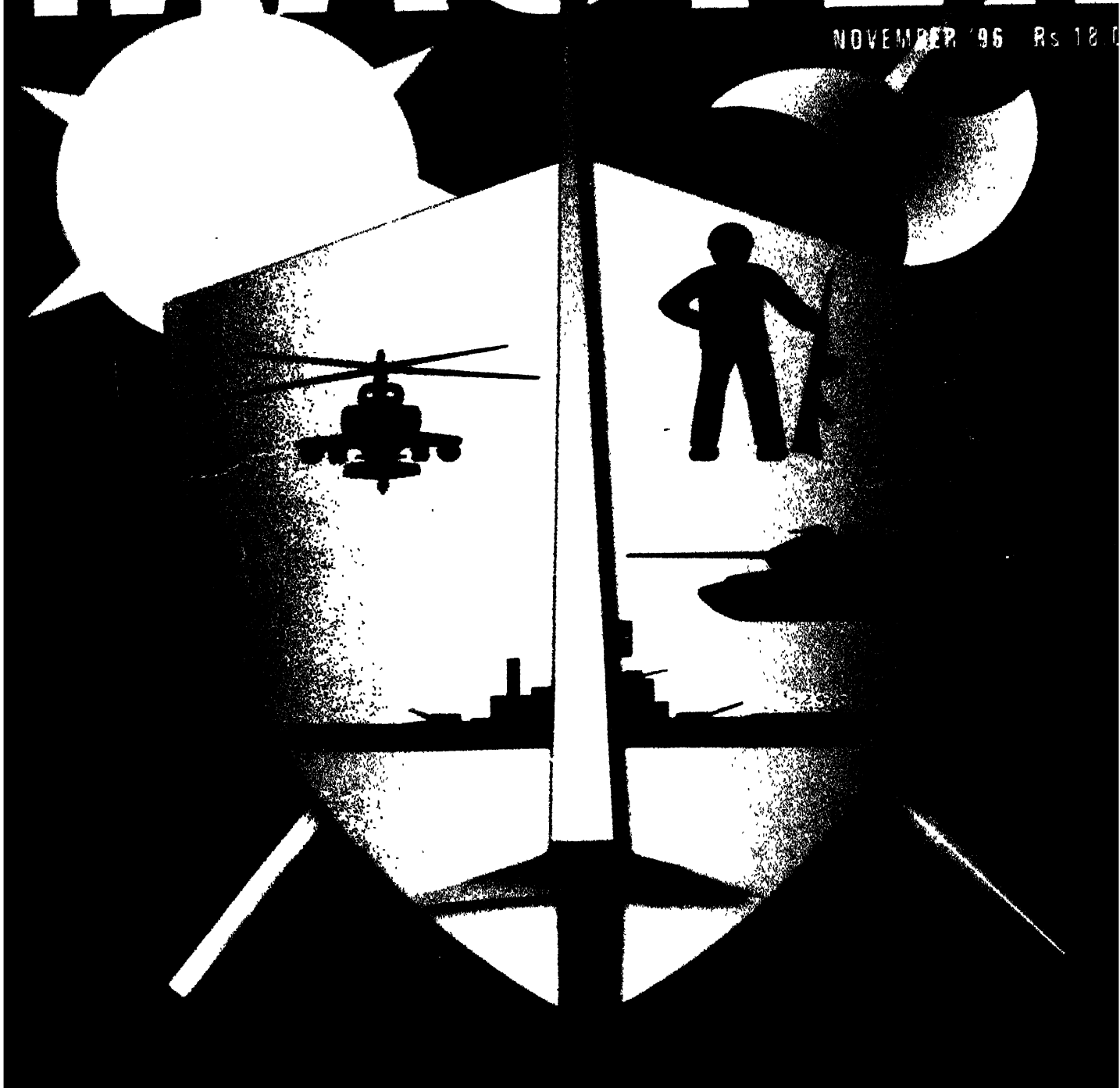
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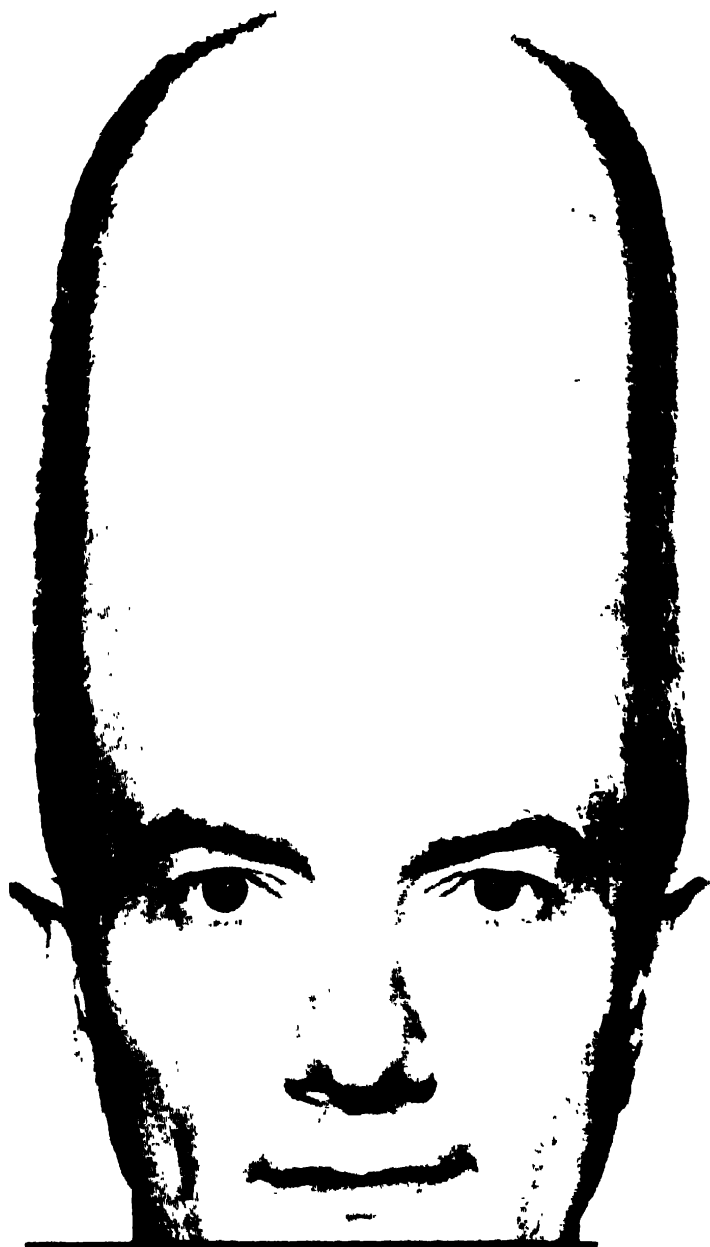
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THE COMPETITION

# MASTER

From the Desk of the

# Editor



*Dear Masters,*

**R**egular readers will not fail to notice a new feature that we have introduced in this issue: Life and Profile. This feature will provide biographical notes on prominent personalities and will help readers know about significant contributions made by world famous personalities. The feature is a result of suggestions made by some of our readers and will be useful for those appearing in competitive exams.

The feature is the result of a constant effort to upgrade the magazine to meet the needs of our readers. We have been doing so regularly: the management section was introduced to help readers preparing for this career. This month we feature Business GK in this section, which is a separate section in some management entrance exams. The information will also help you for discussions and interviews. We also include in this issue expected questions for the civil services exams, which will help IAS aspirants in their preparations.

We are sure our readers will appreciate the new additions. Together with our regular features, we provide ample ammunition to the readers in achieving their dreams. We at Competition Master look forward to your comments and suggestions.

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# MASTER

126, Industrial Area-I, Chandigarh—160 002



# How to Write and Speak<sup>TM</sup> Simple and Powerful English

Dear friend,

My name is Raj Bapna. I invite you to read this page about my new research-based powerful course "Bapna's English Course".

You can use this easy course to learn quickly how to write and speak simple, correct, and powerful English.

## Free Sample of What You Will Learn

Let me teach you how to correctly use will/shall. We call it Bapna's<sup>TM</sup> Will/Shell Rule. This rule has two parts:

**For speaking,** always use WILL. During my 4 years in USA, I never heard anyone use SHALL.

**For writing and for exams,** use 'LL like I'll, you'll, he'll, she'll, they'll. This is a short-cut. In this way, your sentences will always be correct.

This shows how my course can teach you simple, correct and powerful English quickly.

## A Unique Course

Bapna's Will/Shell Rule and other material in this course cannot be copied by others because this material is based on our research, and we own the copyright and trademarks.

## Who Can Benefit

This course is not for all. It is for you only if you are among the following

- If you studied in non-English medium schools.
- If you can understand English when others speak, but you are not sure of correct way to write or speak English
- If you sometimes make mistakes or get confused when speaking English
- If you have used traditional books/coaching to learn English, but did not get success
- If you are a student, teacher, professor, doctor, CA, ICWA, CS, MBA, engineer, scientist, musician, secretary, phone operator, clerk, businessman.
- If you are highly motivated to learn simple and powerful English easily and quickly.

## I Was Weak in English

I was born in Rajasthan where people are weak in English. I studied in government non-English medium schools. So, I was also weak in English.

On my way to Pilani to join B.E., at Chirawa railway station, I met one P V Reddy from Andhra Pradesh who was also going to Pilani to join B.E.

I started speaking in Hindi. Mr Reddy said "I do not know Hindi". It was a surprise and shock for me that someone did not know Hindi. I had never talked in English before and I was not confident of talking in English. So, I said "I do not know English".

## My Struggle to Learn English

In Pilani, in the first semester I was a topper with 10 out of 10 grade points, but I was not confident in English. So, I worried about my weak English.

I bought many books, guides, dictionaries, newspapers. I took one month to read my first novel R. K. Narayan's "The Guide" because I had to search so many words in the dictionary.

I worked hard, but improvement was very slow.

I even thought of dropping one semester, sitting at home, and learning only English. That time I decided "If I become successful in life, I will do something for people from non-English medium schools like myself."

## My Dream Comes True

I continued to work hard. And finally I got success in America. I improved English and became a successful author in USA. Then I returned to India. Today, I am happy to offer you this course in English—my second dream has come true.

My first dream was to teach students "how to study and how to use more mind power" to get success in exams and competitions. That course has changed thousands and thousands of lives in the last 3 years. I am more proud of my research in India

## Our New Research

In English, there are many ways to say anything. Some ways are easy and some are difficult and confusing. We did research to find which are easy ways and which are difficult ways for people from non-English medium schools. In this process, we also discovered that some of the world's best magazines and books use the simple ways of writing English. This was an unexpected surprise for our research team.

For example, we found that Reader's Digest uses simple way of writing. (Because that magazine is for English speaking countries, some of the vocabulary is difficult for non-English people.) Similarly, many advertisements use simple English because it is powerful (Remember that companies pay lakhs of rupees to develop advertisements.)

We developed this new course only for people from non-English medium schools like you

## BIO-DATA

- B.E., BITS Pilani. M.Tech, IIT Kharagpur, NTSE scholar. Rank 5 Raj School Board.
- World-famous author. I published 3 computer books in USA including a best selling book "MS-DOS Masters" costing \$27.95.
- Increased my reading speed from 72 to 1037 words per minute. Was a member of Society for Accelerated Learning & Teaching, USA.
- Expert: computers, study techniques, mind power.
- My first job as an engineer paid only Rs 1000 per MONTH. Just 7 years later, I earned \$50 or Rs 1500 per HOUR in USA as computer expert.
- At the peak of success, I returned to India. I did not take a job. Now, I spend my full time to do research for my students' benefit.
- I also learnt French, Sanskrit, Karate, Breaking wooden board by hand, many Meditations, etc.



## Easy to Learn 5 Parts

If you can understand this article, you can surely understand my course. And greatly benefit from it. Our belief and experience show that teaching English through simple English is better than teaching to translate. Why? Because it helps students to learn to think in English.

The complete course has 5 parts for easy learning:

- Part 1: Essential English
- Part 2: Important and Helpful Usage
- Part 3: How to Write in a Powerful, Effective, and Result-Oriented Way
- Part 4: Advanced Topics
- Part 5: Mini Spelling Dictionary

Part 1 is so easy and powerful that, by itself, it is worth more than the full price for the complete course.

## Benefit from My Mind Power Expertise

You may know that I am an expert in the fields of Mind Power, Study Techniques, and Computers. I have used this knowledge to make my English course easy to learn and easy to remember for you.

You begin to improve on the very first day you get this course. You learn simple and powerful English with my course in two steps:

**Step 1:** Study for 1 hour per day. You can complete it in 25 to 40 days.

**Step 2:** For the next 2 months, revise it for 2 hours per week. After that, for the next 2 months, revise it for 1 hour per week. In this way, your learning will become permanent.

## Pocket Cards for Faster Learning

Keep them in your pocket to revise in school, in college, in bus, in park, in playground, etc. So, you use the time which other people waste. No other course gives you such useful pocket cards.

## Improve Fluency

Being fluent means that you can say anything in English in flow without hesitation. Some people judge you from how fluent you are in English.

To be fluent, you need to (1) be able to say almost anything in English (2) be sure that your sentence is

correct.

This course will improve your fluency in both these ways. Remember, fluency helps you to get better job or faster promotion, and to speak confidently at parties or with friends.

## Proof of Success

- Before joining your course I could understand English but I could not speak English. Now, I can speak powerful English. — Somia Sing, Patna, Bihar
- In the past, I was not good at writing as well as speaking English. Using your course, I am able to write simple and better English without mistake and I can speak English with others without any hesitation. I completed your course in 27 days. — V H Pardehi, Ahmednagar, MS
- Good and unique course. I was average in English. Now I can write letters in simple English. — Akshay Srinivas, AP
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# To Our Budding Intellectuals

*In our August issue we carried an invitation to our readers to pen their views on the 50th year of India's independence. The response on what really it meant to be an Indian was overwhelming and it is an understatement!*

We applaud our readers, young and impressionistic for such a generous response. Much more than that we commend them for their insight into the working of our present democratic system, their ability to express their feelings, hopes and aspirations, frustrations and failures.

The tinge of bitterness and the prick of pessimism is overshadowed by their sweeping love for the country. Some have specifically touched on the ills that stalk the land and have conjured up a vision where the dons, slimy swamis and tantrics are banished, women respected, and upright men and women run the now-erratic system. Others have touched on vital issues like pollution, immorality in public life, civil servants who are uncivil and have reduced freedom to a mere meaningless word.

Despair? Yes. But not without some rays of hope which is expressed in the desire to be re-born in this lovable land.

Their sweep is so wide that it cannot be encompassed. However, one thing stands out conspicuously from this wide spectrum of contributions—a streak of idealism. Ideals are the flagships of a nation. No nation can survive, much less thrive without ideals. The confusion, the corruption, the callousness, depravity, grab-grab syndrome, insensitiveness to public suffering are outcome of downing the ideals into the drain.

Our readers have done us proud by touching on these, showing amazing awareness. Grey heads on green shoulders.

But idealism must be mixed with realism. Talking of ideals in abstraction amounts to paying them only lip service. This is

precisely what 'leaders' of the present generation have been doing, dumping the nation into a drain of despair.

We exhort our young idealists to dump the stagnant system and replace it with a new, vibrant one.

This can be achieved if they refuse to follow the beaten track of double-speak, of abstractions and put their action where their words come from, lend their shoulder to the wheel and soil their hands with hard work without which the nation will sink deeper into the morass of lazy immorality. We have brilliant budding intellectuals. A word of suggestion (advice is too strong)—an intellectual is one who has the moral courage to suffer for his/her conviction.<sup>1</sup> Do some introspection. Are you ready?

We have every reason to believe that you are ready because the abundant vitality, the urge for fashioning a new order are qualities that goad the new generation. There are some other factors, too. The sordid spectacle of tall political poppies falling one by one from their high pedestals are enough and powerful spurs to stem clear of all that the budding brilliants have condemned in their outpourings.

A look at the contemporary Indian landscape will convince that the nation is passing through a transition phase—the old order has died, the new has yet to take birth. Idealists have gone, morally, intellectually and politically bankrupt are ruling the roost. About one dozen ministers from the Rao Cabinet, including the 'supremo leader' himself are involved in bribery, corruption, nepotism and cheating. The scenario is gloomy and dismal. Yet, it will be a sacrilege to sink in despair because that will mean losing faith in the emerging, bright generation. The call is clear. The nation beckons you. Shoulder your responsibility which walks hand in hand with capacity and character.





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## READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box have been awarded a prize of Rs 100 00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

### JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

Your debate on Judicial Activism (October 96) was really interesting. I think that we should not blame the judges but the leaders themselves who have forced the judges down on their own heads. In spite of this cleansing, such a situation continues, the judiciary will continue usurping powers and become all powerful.

Sunil Barthwal  
Dehradun U.P.

The debate on Judicial Activism was really very interesting. I feel that it is wrong to blame the judges. Being a custodian and watchdog of democracy it cannot remain a silent spectator to the failure of the legislature and of the executive.

Prashu Prasad  
Patna Bihar

### UNDERUTILISED RESOURCES

Your cover feature (October 96) shows us a clear picture of mismanagement of the country's wealth. This has resulted in skewed development. Certain States which are rich in resources remain poor which has resulted in increase in demands for separate States. The answer is equitable development of all areas but will our leaders be up to the task of achieving this?

Manbir Singh Sambyal  
Kathua J&K

### FROM SOCIALIST TO CONSUMER SOCIETY

India's experiment with the mixed economy failed because it imposed a strong bureaucracy. Even today, we have not learnt the lesson from our past and in crucial areas we still have a strong control of the government. Merely allowing in luxury goods

from the West will not do us any good. What is required is freeing initiative and rewarding hard work. Unfortunately, our brand of liberalisation does nothing of the kind. Once again, we are pursuing an economic model without firm commitment.

Manoj Kumar Sahoo  
Bhubaneswar Orissa

For millions of people in India basic needs are still a luxury. Globalisation was certainly not the answer to meet these needs. The previous government did not take up globalisation for the poor as is claimed but to make personal fortunes by way of bribes and kickbacks. Looking back liberalisation may have been one of the greatest frauds on the people of this country.

Ablujit Dasgupta  
Calcutta

### COME CLEAN BY TRIAL

Your editorial is pungent enough to drive home the point that Mr Rao should submit himself to trial and come clean if he is innocent. If he takes recourse to technicalities of the law it will be difficult to protect his image. A leader should not expect that his organisation should carry his burden for him.

B Vijayan  
Pune Maharashtra

### CM FEATURES

I find THE COMPETITION MASTER is a very good magazine. Recently I was selected as a Probationary Officer in a bank and I would like to convey my gratitude to your magazine for its help and guidance.

Narendra Kumar Das  
Darbhanga Bihar

I am a regular reader of THE COMPETITION MASTER and find it very informative and useful. I would say that it reflects the thinking and aspirations of the youth of the country.

Geetu Choudhary  
Bhopal M.P.

Please start a personality column which could answer confidential questions

### JUDGES ARE ONLY DOING THEIR JOB

The hype about judicial activism is uncalled for, since the judiciary is only doing what it should be doing. It is an extraordinary situation that there is hardly a politician who is not involved in some scandal or the other. The elected representatives have been looting the country without any fear for years. Thanks to the courts, the criminals can be punished and we can at least expect some decency from our future leaders. It is the active judiciary that is saving our faith in democratic systems.

Jagdeep Malik  
Ludhiana, Punjab

### FIFTY YEAR COMPETITION

It was an enriching experience to read the views of so many people in THE COMPETITION MASTER's "50th Year of Independence" contest. All the write-ups were good and helped me evaluate my own views and refine my opinion. While some were emotional, others were quite intellectual.

After going through the feature, I think that the contest was a grand success. You have contributed in making the 50th year of our independence memorable for many readers.

Vijay Lakshmi  
Bhubaneswar, Orissa

from readers. This could help your readers to seek your advice on matters which they cannot ask everyone and also help in personality development.

Ranian Kumar  
New Delhi

### REQUEST TO READERS

May be you have appeared in some competitive exams recently. We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. All those sending the original question papers will be suitably compensated and the original papers will be returned.

—Editor



## ESSAY

# Doctors and Patients

THERE is no denying the fact that relations between a doctor and a patient, a teacher and a student, and, a lawyer and a client are based on truth and trust in each other's bonafides. The moment these bonds become purely commercial, the most sustaining citadels of social health begin to crumble and collapse. When Mammon becomes the decisive factor and compassion yields to crude calculation, the contours of life shrink and the torch-bearers of health (doctor), enlightenment (teacher), rule of law (lawyer) fall from their traditional pedestal and consequently the social fabric starts to stink. It is after much debate, deliberation and discussion, the Apex Court has come to the conclusion that doctors who sell their services for monetary benefits come under the purview of 'Consumer Protection Act' for all their acts of inefficiency or negligence or both. The ideals of yesteryears have given way to material comforts and the values of charity and austerity to more and more pelf and worldly possessions. With the rising crescendo of consumerist culture or cult, money seems to have become the 'be all and end all' of all professions, pursuits and services.

Today, like everything else in this country, the quality control in medical practice is at its lowest ebb. In no other civilised country the unregulated health industry is allowed to behave so recklessly and in such a mercenary manner as in India. The reasons are many. Perhaps the main reason is that the healthcare of its citizens is one of the least important concerns of any elected government. The medical profession, from quacks to chemists, from primary health centres to hi-tech hospitals run by the government, is in the state of utter neglect and nobody's business. People or patients have no choice but to seek medical attention at a heavy price. The existence of five-star hospitals or nursing homes in the private

sector and the State-run dispensaries, primary health centres and hospitals are a self-speaking picture of contrasts and contradictions. Whereas the rich patients can have the best of medical care at their door, the poor have to run from pillar to post to receive even casual caress and consideration for all their ailments and sufferings. Quite often the deprived and the dispossessed fall into the trap of those who possess little knowledge and pass for medical practitioners of all systems of medical science. One can well imagine the plight of such patients at the hands of 'all weather doctors' the number of which is alarmingly high in our country.

Medicine, like teaching, is a noble calling. Any effort, deliberate or otherwise, to transform this calling into a money spinning machine is both immoral as well as irreverent. When money will reigns supreme and human values will take a back seat both doctors and patients would be fighting each other in courts of law and each segment of society will try to fleece the other as best or worst as possible. Such a sordid scenario is neither good for the doctors who swear by Hippocrates nor for the patients who put their full-faith in their saviours.

Mushroom growth of private health sector has posed many important questions. First, how rigorously are their working conditions monitored and by whom? As we live in a consumer-driven society, patients have every right to demand and receive the standard of care and expertise for which they are paying money directly to the private hospitals or nursing homes and indirectly through taxes to the State-run hospitals. The provisions of the CPA 1980 (amended in 1993) should apply to both the categories of doctors, though differently as decided by the Supreme Court. As we lack fair governance in this country,

manipulations are bound to occur notwithstanding the Apex Court judgement in the matter. Therefore, it is time that an independent committee was created by an act of Parliament to control and regulate both private and government health sectors.

For a patient, the doctor is his first source of succour and his last hope of survival. Despite the presence of a few black sheep among the dedicated in the noble profession on the one hand, and some perverted or aggrieved patients on the other, the bridges of trust between the two should not be allowed to be snapped under any circumstances. That would be a sad day indeed if both the doctors and the patients find themselves on the war path and accuse each other of malafide intentions in consumer or civil courts. In the gruesome game of litigation, there can be no winners but only losers on both sides. Some patients, and their kith and kin may be happy with the new dispensation after the Apex Court judgement. The doctors' main grouse on this account may be valid when they apprehend a spurt in the frivolous cases against them. When the tempers cool down and both doctors and patients do some introspection, the results are bound to be pleasing. Between a doctor and a patient, there is no magic wand that can work so effectively as their mutual understanding and faith in each other's goodness. In matters of life and death, the doctor intervenes first and puts his heart and soul into saving the patient lying before him on the operation theatre or in the intensive care unit. 'Whereas the doctor treats, He cures', is a belief held dear to the heart, both by the doctors and the patients. Let this belief continue to grow strong and stronger, despite the ugly presence so many temptations in almost all walks and professions of life.

# India's Defence: ARE WE PREPARED?

We do not think of our armed forces during peace. Perhaps that is why this area has been neglected over the years. Today, there are serious questions being raised about our defence preparedness, in the face of manpower shortages, obsolete equipment and sagging morale. Funding required to modernise has not been easy to come by, especially since the government has been under pressure to reduce budgetary deficits.

This could be justified if the country had made efforts to normalise relations with its neighbours. No major diplomatic initiatives have been taken to reduce tensions in the area by successive governments, which have remained embroiled in corruption charges and controversies, leading to neglect of the vital defence area. We continue to fight an expensive war in Siachen, while relations with Pakistan continue to be strained. There is no saying what China might do, shrouded as it is in secrecy. If, earlier, India could count on a friendship treaty with Russia to help it out, today there are no such assurances available.

In this security environment, it would be natural to expect that the government should be putting more emphasis on defence, not less. But one of the casualties of the government's pre-occupation with scandals has been the country's armed forces. Our leaders simply do not have time for crucial matters like guarding the country. Political expediency has resulted in the present government appointing a novice as the Defence Minister at a crucial time when hard decisions are required.

For its part, the defence establishment has failed in making substantial progress in production of equipment. Many of its projects are non-starters and corruption has marked its procurement activities. The R&D activities are almost non-existent, in spite of tall claims issued periodically in the press. With the result, the country still has to rely on imported arms, equipment and spares while much of its equipment today has become obsolete.

Our cover story this month looks at our defence preparedness. In the face of changing world equations, are we ready to face challenges? Is our defence becoming an extension of the police, being used more and more in civilian duties? Or, do we need a disaster to focus attention once again on the crucial area of defence?

India is proud of its armed forces. Except for the defeat that we suffered against China in 1962, the armed forces have lived up to expectations on many occasions. In peace times, the forces have been used to keep law and order in troubled States, as also to help out in times of natural calamities. Not surprisingly, the Republic Day parade shows off in gleaming splendour, the men and the machines of the armed forces, to the nation

and to the world.

What lies under that gloss and shine? Are we really ready to face challenges? True, we have not reached a crisis situation, but many experts believe that we are fast heading towards one, if something is not done to improve our defence preparedness. There is a serious shortage of men and officers, while all three wings of the services—army, navy and air force—reel under obsolete and inadequate equipment.

Many people believe that the importance of the armed forces is only realised at the time of war. While this is no doubt true, the country could be making a blunder in waiting for a war to take place to take corrective action. It is in peace time that defence preparedness should be strengthened. Unfortunately, the years of peace have only resulted in serious shortages of men, equipment and funds, raising doubts about preparedness of our defence forces.

One of the major source of worry is the lack of human resources. Even with large unemployment in the country, Indians do not want to join the armed forces. There are more lucrative careers elsewhere, more so after the economy has opened up. But, that is only half the story. For its part, the army has not attuned itself to the needs of the job seekers. For example, though lakhs of people apply for exams such as

Combined Defence Services (CDS), National Defence Academy (NDA) and Indian Military Academy (IMA), none of the candidates has any clue what is required of them. Clearing the test is easy, but during interviews, entire batches are washed out. It is difficult to believe that not one person in an entire batch is found to be fit to join the army! The recruitment of the armed forces is, therefore, defective and needs to be made more transparent. In the face of severe shortages, it seems improper to deny candidates a chance to serve in the forces.

The unhelpful attitude of the recruiters and changes in career preferences has resulted in a shortfall of people. In the Army the shortfall is estimated to be 59,436 men and 12,586 officers. In the officer cadre, the shortage has increased from 22 per cent in 1990 to 28 per cent in 1994 and is currently about one-third of its sanctioned strength. Shortages exist in infantry, engineers, service corps and practically all branches. Though the shortfall is serious, the Army is not doing much to correct things. All it plans to do is to launch a nation-wide "Image Pro-



jection Campaign" as if it will make young people attracted to the forces.

What is an Army without soldiers? In a survey of attitudes among its officers and the general public, it was found that the armed forces ranked among the lowest career options for the 6,088 potential recruits polled. Most of the candidates wanted to join the private sector or the civil services. Students with high marks placed the armed forces lowest in the list of career options.

Faced with a situation that fewer people apply and mediocrity among those who do, the armed forces are faced with a tough task. There is no doubt that this will reflect in defence preparedness in the long run.

The blame for this lies with the bureaucracy too. It has cornered the pay increases and promotion avenues; nothing substantial has been done for the forces. While the pay and allowances are higher for the civil services, it has been found that only 0.5 per cent of the officers make it to the rank of major-general, as compared to 22 per cent of the IAS officers who can achieve a corresponding rank. Moreover, the discipline of the armed forces is missing in civilian life. It would take a remarkable person indeed who would want to join the defence services given these facts!

Combined with this is the decrease in status of the services. The Army is increasingly being called out to help the civil administration in many States. The increased interaction makes comparisons with civil life easier and also shows

the attitude of the administration, which is marked by lack of respect. The soldier is made to feel that he is doing nothing for the country. "Take a small thing like having a different counter for certain services or that banks did not charge a commission on our drafts", says an officer. "People are increasingly questioning these privileges and many are being withdrawn. This takes away the importance and joy of being a soldier."

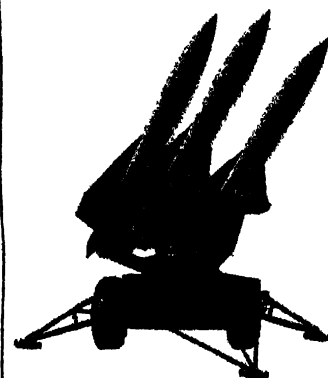
In situations where motivation makes all the difference between winning and losing, this is a serious shortcoming. Civilians, of course, question why special status should be accorded to members of the armed forces, but offering these small things is one way of influencing motivation through non-monetary benefits. There is an urgent need to rebuild the pride in working for the armed forces which cannot be obtained by mere advertising campaigns.

**T**he second area in defence preparedness is having modern equipment. With newer developments in technology, modern warfare is not just a matter of strategy. Technology gives the force what is known as the "multiplier effect", meaning that a small force with high technology equipment can equal a big force with low technology gadgets. That is why countries invest in the latest gadgetry. Does India have the multiplier effect?

With the screws turned on defence spending, modernisation of the forces has taken a severe setback. The

army requires modern tanks and combat helicopters, the air force has been waiting for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and other modern planes for years, while the navy must immediately have a replacement for the INS *Vikrant*. The cost of all this runs into several thousands of crores. On the other hand, the country is cutting defence expenditure on economic considerations leading to near-crisis situation in the forces.

The problem is compounded by the fact that government's decision making on the deals is extremely slow, not the least because huge bribes are received for defence deals. India must be the only country that has allowed kickbacks to politicians in such a vital area as defence deals: the Bofors case has come to personify the corruption associated with defence acquisitions. Since then many defence orders have come in the national focus for questionable deals. Many of the deals for upgradation of technology or equipment have been held up for some reason or the other. In the case of the Navy, though the INS *Vikrant* has been decommissioned, the government is yet to initiate the final proceedings for buying a new aircraft carrier.



Nor does the country have a strong production base of its own. All the three services suffer today because of this and a research base that produces nothing productive. It is ironic that though the country is producing state of the art consumer goods, its defence production should be outdated.

With the result, India has to import equipment year after year; in many cases, the equipment is so outdated that getting spares has become a major problem. Many of our planes and tanks have come from Russia, which is no longer in a position to supply the spares. Our Ordnance factories are steeped in inefficiency and corruption. The research and development (R&D) function has failed completely and is almost non-existent. Reports of developing indigenous technology, put out by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), almost invariably turn out to be false. India's LCA project has been going on for years without successful trials so far, while the MBT *Arjun* project has been delayed for years. Defence factories are mismanaged and operate at uneconomic levels. The "national interest" clause is best used for hiding information about inefficiencies in the defence sector.

The DRDO functioning can best be summed up by an Admiral's comment when he was shown the prototype of a submarine. "Even my dockyard worker will cut thermocol better", he is reported to have remarked.

**Navy:** Not for nothing

did the outgoing Chief of Naval Staff Vijay Singh Shekhawat paint a grim future of the Navy which faces a shortage of equipment. "The process of damage has already begun even if orders are placed now", he said. He blamed bureaucratic procedures and non-decisions for this. The Admiral also made a point when he said that efforts were being made to put brakes on the country's progress so that India did not become equal to world powers. Colonialism, he said, was being replaced by other methods such as the World Trade Organisation, technology denial regimes and Intellectual Property Rights. But, rather than develop our own technology, we were thinking of importing ships.

Admiral Shekhawat's comments show how India is being sidelined in the world arena but there is no political will in the country to rectify matters. The Navy, particularly, is vulnerable since it stands to lose one-third of its combat ships in the next three years. The present fleet of 40 warships will decrease to 28 by 1999. Procurement of new vessels has come to a standstill in the last 10 years. This is serious considering that China is getting active in the Indian Ocean and Pakistan is on the verge of acquiring most modern naval ships.

**Army:** Much the same applies in Army too. Budget cuts have resulted in a severe crunch, limiting modernisation. The Indian Army faces shortage of equipment that could lead to a crisis situation. Primary among this is the Main Battle Tank (MBT).

Though India has 3,400 MBTs as compared to 2,000 that Pakistan has, many of them are outdated. We have 800 of the Russian T-55 tanks (1955) and 1,200 *Vijayantas* (1965), which should have been phased out by now. The T-72 tanks are also slowly becoming outdated and need to be upgraded. The Army has waited for years for the indigenous MBT *Arjun* which the country has not been able to make so far.

The result is that the Army has to make do with out-dated tanks for which it cannot even get spares. Even the T-72s are not enough as the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi can produce only 80 tanks against a capacity of 200. On the other hand, Pakistan has acquired 200 each of Chinese Type-69 and Type-85 MBTs and is in the process of acquiring more. Pakistan has also made good progress in the development of the *Al Khaled*—its answer to the *Arjun*—which it is making with Chinese help at the Taxila Heavy Vehicles factory.

The reason is not only lack of resources but also the bureaucratic way of working of the defence factories. Suppliers have reported that bribes have to be paid to officials for inspections of materials supplied and for obtaining payments. This, undoubtedly, affects development of a new tank or any equipment. Moreover,

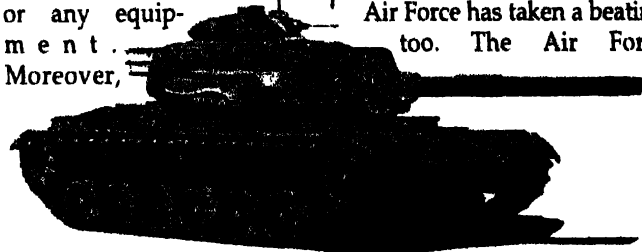
since the *Arjun* is expected to cost Rs 12 crore, money will have to be allocated to produce a minimum of 100 tanks if it goes into production by the end of the century as expected.

Lack of funds and decision-making is undoubtedly affecting our defence capability. With the present defence budget, the introduction of the 155mm self-propelled gun has become unaffordable. As regards air artillery, the 23mm *Shilka*, inducted in the 1970s, requires to be phased out.

The overall quantum of air defence artillery is also said to be inadequate for our static vulnerable points.

As regards armed helicopters, the Army could not induct the MI-35 helicopter. Spares and petroleum purchases have also been allocated for lesser amount than last year. Purchases of guns have not lived out of the Bofors shadow. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has reported on many deals that were made in a similar fashion. In 1991, for example, the Defence Ministry placed an order on a Yugoslavian firm to supply 150 Tank Fire Control Systems. Though an advance of Rs 27.63 crore was paid, the guns never arrived nor was the bank guarantee invoked, which was valid till 1993.

**Air Force:** Likewise, the development of planes for the Air Force has taken a beating too. The Air Force



continues to lose aircraft, due to accidents, with shocking regularity, and has the highest accident rate in the world—there have been 82 air crashes in the last three

regularly making claims

and a half years, or almost 2 crashes per month. Some of the factors responsible for this are plummeting morale of the officers and an outdated training plan for the pilots.

The Purulia arms drop episode exposed our weakness in ensuring surveillance of aircraft entering Indian air space so the need for having a modern air force cannot be discounted. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has been in the pipeline for many years. In 1985, the then Defence Minister K.C. Pant had declared that it would be "totally indigenous".

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been

about the aircraft.

In spite of the claims the prototype, which was rolled out on November 18, 1995 from the Bangalore factory, had General Electric Engines. The DRDO had also claimed that Indian scientists had developed stealth technology but the Ministry of Defence recently had to negotiate with a Dutch company to import the stealth technology. Other technologies used in the aircraft are being imported from Sweden, USA, France and other countries, giving the lie to the statement about the LCA being an indigenous aircraft. Only two systems have been developed by Indians, the digital brake management system and carbon-brake discs

No modernisation of the IAF has taken place for almost 10 years. The latest acquisitions which include three squadrons of MiG-29s and two squadrons of Mirage-2000s, date back to the 1980s. Transport planes are also obsolete.

The Air Force too suffers from lack of men: most of the good pilots want to leave the Force join foreign airlines or communication companies to earn fatter salaries. The IAF today operates without any strategic thinking.

The budget reflects those areas which the country holds important. Through economic instruments, these objectives are aimed to be met. Increasingly, the budget has started reflecting that defence has lost the importance it once held. For years the Indian defence budget was pegged at 4 per cent of the GNP. Prior to 1962, the defence spending was around 2 per cent of GNP but after the debacle of the Indian armed forces at the hands of the Chinese, the budget was arbitrarily raised to 3.5 per cent, increasing to 4 per cent in 1988. In 1989-90, faced with a severe resource crunch, the government slashed the defence budget by about Rs 200 crore. This set a precedent for future governments.

The last five years have witnessed a decline in the defence budget in real terms. The annual budget for 1996-97 allocates Rs 27,798 crore for defence, representing an 8 per cent increase in outlay of last year's budget. Over the revised estimates of Rs 26,879

crore for last year, the increase works out to be about 3 per cent. As a percentage of GDP the outlay is about 2.38 per cent, marking an all time low in the last 3 years.

The budget allocation is actually a decline in real terms, since it does not take into account the inflation rate or the increase in prices of petroleum products. At the same time, salaries have also increased on account of recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and it is expected that money will be diverted from other heads to meet the cost of salaries. Pakistan's defence budget, on the other hand, has been increased by almost 14 per cent this year.

The surprising thing is that neither the 4 per cent earlier nor the present allocations are done on a scientific basis. The budget hikes have been done in an ad hoc manner, without any long-term planning or keeping in mind the staggering leaps required in the level of defence spending. The increases in defence spending are passed every year with the most superficial debates in Parliament.

It is a major national weakness that the defence sector, which gets Rs 27,000 crore of the budget outlay, should be so protected from public debate. Even the top brass is not involved when it comes to deciding things concerning defence. Political interventions have rendered the decision-making capacities of even the top generals useless. The three services that constitute the defence of the nation, all suffer from this shortcoming.

## Modernising the Armed Forces

**Army:** The army requires combat helicopters, upgradation of T-72 tanks and is waiting for the induction of the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT) in 1998. It also requires self-propelled guns, anti-tank missiles and transport aircraft.

**Air Force:** The air force is waiting for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), due in March 1997, as also Mirage 2000s and Sukhoi-30 fighters. It also awaits upgradation of the MiG-21 aircraft which has been delayed, and purchase of Su-30 aircraft from Russia. It also requires jet trainers since it has lost many aircraft in crashes in the last few years.

**Navy:** The INS Vikrant has been put to sleep and the government has been negotiating with Russia for the aircraft carrier Gorshkov costing Rs 4000 crore. The INS Virat is also on its last legs. In addition, the Navy needs to add to its fleet of Sea Harriers, besides the Airborne Early Warning System to counter Pakistan's acquisition of Orion maritime patrol and strike aircraft.

At the same time, no attempt has been made to reduce tensions with neighbours through diplomatic efforts. If this had been done, a reduction in defence budget could have been justified.

Those arguing for higher allocations also do not do so keeping in view what is required, but cite Pakistan's example, which spends a higher percentage of its GNP in defence. A long-term plan, on the other hand, should estimate what is required and ask for resources accordingly.

**B**udget allocations should be made keeping in view the security environment in the region. Pakistan has continued to acquire more sophisticated weapons and China too has made significant progress in upgrading military technology and professional capabilities in the last decade. It has successfully exercised its military formations in different aspects of combat including chemical warfare in Tibet.

Pakistan has also pushed ahead with its nuclear programme and reportedly is very close to making a bomb. Its missile programme at Fatehganj, near Islamabad, is reportedly at take off stage. With this, it will have the capability to deliver a 1,000 kg payload at a distance of 600 km. It continues to get technology from the US and China. How are such threats to be encountered?

India has also not been able to bring pressure on the US, which, despite the Pressler amendment, continues to supply technology assistance to Pakistan.

**A** reduction in defence spending should logically be accompanied by a diplomatic initiative so that the country has better relations with its neighbours. Even the traditional foes, US and Russia, have been able to negotiate about arms reduction agreements. True, there are different motivations for those countries, but certainly India can take up the initiative to reduce the arms race in the region. After all, buying expensive arms are not in the interests of both the nations.

Among the three nations in the region—China, Pakistan and India—India has a strong tradition of non-violence and could provide a leadership to the other nations. Over the years, India has lost this leadership role. It is time that India took up the lead in launching a South Asian security initiative and worked out a mutually agreed force reduction regime. For that, the vision of a statesman is required, which unfortunately neither Pakistan nor India is known to have. However, it would be in the interest of both the countries if such an arrangement can be worked out. In the post cold war period, the nature of threats have changed in South Asia. External threats are being replaced by internal and non-military threats of a far more serious nature. India can, at this stage, make use of the opportunities now presenting themselves to introduce a strategic balance which would serve all countries of South Asia.

It has to be recognised that wars are no longer affordable. If both sides went in for an exercise of examining the nature, purpose and consequences of a future war, they would realise the futility of preparing for such a war. On the other hand, it is also said that a reduction regime is not practicable. China attacked us in 1962 because we were weak. Today it cannot think of doing so since we are strong. If we insist on reducing arms, we would be a target for our enemies. Nevertheless, the idea is not altogether utopian and may have certain merits. For example, if India can take a diplomatic initiative and helps reduce the expensive war in Siachen, it would benefit both sides.

Unfortunately, domestic politics dominates the thinking of both Pakistan and India. Both are locked in a war of one upmanship in acquiring sophisticated weapons. Both protect their military secrets though less and less is becoming secret in today's age. In India, debate on defence matters is effectively controlled by the Official Secrets Act. There is need to get rid of this colonial law and open debate on one of the largest item of expenditure in the national budget. If there was openness, perhaps many of the shortcomings of the defence can come out in the open and resolved.

**C**learly, there is much in India's defence that needs to be restructured. We are

prepared today, but will we continue to be in this state in the future, given the scenario that there is no planning, budget allocations are being reduced in real terms and we do not have a respectable defence production base to speak of?

There is a need to reduce the bureaucracy associated with defence. The Ministry of Defence, for example, has all the authority but no responsibility. Politicians still scuttle or delay purchase of equipment in the hope of getting bribes, while the opinion of Chiefs of Army Staff is conveniently ignored. The country has to learn to take a long-term perspective on defence matters and introduce planning in the system that takes into account different threat perceptions. At the same time, there has to be an introspection into the working of the defence and some accountability. The country can ill afford, for instance, to lose crores worth of airplanes due to negligence of the Air Force.

There is also an urgent need to professionalise the armed forces. In the days when modern management techniques are being adopted in all areas, is it not time that the same are applied to the defence forces? Finally, it would be a pity if the armed forces lose their edge and their preparedness because of paucity of funds. The country has a good force, built up at great cost. Let us not neglect it. It is not necessary to lose a war to realise that our armed forces need upgradation.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Iraq's Continuing Kurd Crisis

*On September 3, 1996, the Gulf region exploded once again. President Saddam Hussein's push into northern Iraq in August provided the US the excuse to launch missile attacks on targets in southern Iraq. This focussed the spotlight on the interminable Kurdish factional fighting in Iraq. The issue of 22 million Kurds scattered in different countries has remained a long-standing and an unresolved one and there is no likelihood of a solution being found in the near future. The growing Kurdish ethno-nationalism presents a challenge to countries where Kurds constitute a sizeable proportion of the population, including Iran, Iraq and Turkey. But in the international arena, the Kurds are a forgotten community.*

*This feature describes the history of the Kurd problem, which has become a continuing sore in West Asia, and also the latest crisis in Iraq. The Kurd question remains a source of regional tension but in spite of the attention after the US attack, no solutions are expected to be found to resolve the long-standing conflict.*

**W**HEN Iraqi troops moved towards the city of Erbil in northern Iraq, the unofficial capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, the stage was set for another showdown with the US. The Iraqi offensive was the boldest since the end of the Gulf war five years ago. After the war, the US and its allies had established an enclave for the 4 million Kurds in northern Iraq, which became off-limit for Saddam Hussein's forces.

The Kurds are a non-Arab people with distinct linguistic and cultural characteristics. They have lived in a territory spreading between Iraq, Turkey and Iran for over 4,000 years. Their relations with the governments of these countries have not been cordial and there is little support for them

in the Middle East. The lack of unity among the Kurds makes them open for manipulation by different countries.

Even under Western protection, the two rival Kurd factions, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), started fighting for control of the area. The US had helped in negotiating a cease-fire between the two groups, but that had broken in July, 1996.

The PUK is backed by Iran. On August 17, 1996, the PUK began an assault on the KDP and Iranian forces joined in by attacking KDP positions from their own country. KDP's leader Massoud Barzani requested Iraq for help, which responded by sending troops to northern Iraq. Since the area was declared a safe haven, the US issued a warning, which Iraq did not heed. It is perhaps ironical that the US pounded Iraq to help a group supported by Iran, a "rogue" State as described by the US. Many believe that US elections were behind Clinton's decision to attack Iraq. This time, however, the action did not have the consensus of the world and there was sharp criticism about the US action. However, the Kurd question remains unresolved and none of the Western countries are interested in it.

### Kurd Nationalism

**N**ORTHERN Iraq is a political twilight zone, where the interests of many countries compete, including those of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria and even the US. The Kurds have become expendable tools, since no country wants them to emerge as a united and cohesive force.

The Kurdish dream for an independent State goes back many decades. The Kurds are Sunni Muslims, and the largest minority group in Turkey and Iraq. Historically, Kurdistan was never a united entity. They were divided between two powerful empires but had considerable *de facto* independence until the beginning of the modern State system in West Asia. After World War I, when new States were carved out of a disintegrating Ottoman Empire, the Kurds were also regarded as candidates for nationhood. The 1920 Treaty of Sevres did call for the creation of an autonomous Kurdish State. But it was not implemented and Kurdistan was split among three nations.

Since then, the stronger States have suppressed the Kurds and they became a persecuted minority. As a result, the demand for a separate identity has taken stronger shape but this has been marred by fighting among themselves. Kurds have conducted their struggle within the political framework of the countries where they live. They have fought for cultural and political autonomy rather than complete national independence.

Countries in which the Kurds live are not willing to grant autonomy to the Kurds, although they have huge numbers. In Turkey, there are 12 million Kurds who make up 20 per cent of the population. They are a distinct ethnic entity, described as "mountain Turks" and their language is called "a rotten branch of Turkish". Since Turkey is a monoethnic State and does not recognise the legal existence of ethnic and religious minorities, autonomy has been elusive for the Kurds.

In an authoritarian State like Iraq, autonomy is a distant dream. The Kurds have



suffered the most in Iraq, where Saddam Hussein has cracked down on them savagely. They have been driven out from their villages, intentionally starved and even massacred with poison gas. Towards the end of the Iran-Iraq war, the Kurds were dealt with severely by Iraq. Outside powers, including USA, have used the Kurds as pawns but failed to come to their rescue when they were persecuted.

In Iran too, the demand for autonomy is anathema since the State is based on the notion of universality of Islam. It has also dealt with the Kurds brutally. In July 1996, a ground assault was launched in the Suleimanya region of Iraqi Kurdistan to hunt down guerillas belonging to the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI).

After the Gulf War of 1990, the Iraqi Kurdish Front (IKF) was formed with the merger of the Kurdish Democratic Party and the PUK. It hoped for liberating Kurdistan and later carving out an autonomous Kurdish State near the 36th Parallel in northern Iraq. Following the general elections in 1992, this area became a safe haven, protected by allied forces.

If there were hopes that this could emerge into a Kurdish State, they soon vanished due to infighting among the Kurds. Lacking central authority, the Kurds only saw increasing factionalism and tribalism. The nascent entity degenerated into chaos and civil war, claiming more than 4,000 lives since December, 1994.

The West does not have a policy on Kurds. At best, its policies are geared towards containing Saddam Hussein. What is required is mediation not only among the countries which have a Kurd population but also among the Kurds themselves. At present, no such moves are being initiated, pointing to the long struggle ahead for the Kurds. The US has no intention of helping the Kurds but intends to use them as a pretext to browbeat Iran and Iraq.

### Present Crisis

**T**HE present crisis is not new, nor is it the last. It has provided President

Clinton with an opportunity a means to improve his popularity ratings for the elections. Five years ago the Kurds were asked by the US to rise up against Saddam Hussein. Today, it does not want anything to do with them and only wants Iraq to fear the US.

For India, the conflict can have a repercussion as it will result in increase in oil prices. The current oil import bill for India is \$ 7.6 billion, which could rise to \$ 9 billion. As far as mediating is concerned, India's advice was sought in 1956, when it was respected in the world arena. The leaders were respected and universally accepted. Today, it is nowhere in the picture as far as the conflict is concerned.

The world must wonder why Saddam Hussein moved into the protected areas and invited the US attack. Was it a move of a compulsive gambler? The US says that Saddam is a 'repeat offender' and, when in doubt, will resort to arms and fight. This time, he had hoped that by attacking the PUK, he could promote civil war among the Kurds, who were already fighting each other. But it is unlikely that he expected

the US action.

The US has cited UN Security Council resolution 688, approved in 1991, as the foundation of the no fly zones in northern and southern Iraq. But the resolution does not explicitly establish any protected zones in Iraq. Saddam Hussein, probably, calculated that since he was moving against the expansion of Iranian influence in the region, the US would not retaliate seriously. For one, he had not taken into account the fact that the heat of the election campaign had built up in the US elections.

Though Saddam miscalculated the US reaction, he has still gained. He has been able to show that his military machine is still in order, despite Western sanctions. The US attack also drew unfavourable response from many countries. Iran blames the US for the present situation. If the US continues to draw its guns quickly every time Saddam Hussein does something, international opinion is likely to turn against the US. In the long run, it will be Saddam Hussein who will gain from such tactics.

### The Unending Kurdish Crisis

**The Kurds**—One of the world's major groups (population about 22 million) without a State of their own. They are a non-Arab Muslim people who live in the wild mountain region where the borders of Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Armenia and Azerbaijan converge. They have often been caught between the power struggle of the countries in which they live. Some 1 million Kurds became homeless and 25,000 were killed in 1984-89. In 1991, over 1 million were forced to flee their homes in Iraq. Chemical weapons have also been used against this persecuted community. There was a failed attempt to set up an autonomous Kurdish State within the Ottoman empire during the 1880s.

After the 1991 war, the US set up a safe haven for them in northern Iraq near the 36th Parallel. But factionalism and infighting resulted in the present crisis.

**Present Crisis**—Culturally, Iraqi Kurdistan is divided into two main factions: one is the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), which is allied with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. It is led by Massoud Barzani. The other is the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani and is backed by Iran. The internecine warfare among the groups diminishes the chances of Kurds in Turkey or Iran achieving self-rule much less an independent State.

The US had warned Iraq against attacking the Kurds in northern Iraq and responded with missile strikes when Iraqi troops moved there. But unlike the Gulf War, this time the US action was not supported by many countries who see it as unnecessary meddling in Iraq's affairs. Instead, a political solution is required, but no country is willing to mediate in the long-standing problem.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Towards a Solution in Kashmir

*The elections in Kashmir have been held despite odds, representing a giant leap forward by a State where fear had given way to futility not so long ago. The large voter turnout, the lack of major bloodshed during the polls and the resounding victory of the National Conference has proved the doomsday prophets wrong. The turnaround in Kashmir has also delivered a stinging blow to Pakistan and a snub to Western nations who had sought to impose their facile solutions on the country. However daunting the task ahead, India has again proved that the Republic is alive, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.*

*While there is reason for euphoria, it would be wrong to be complacent and hope for a return to normalcy. It is true that Kashmiris are fed up of the continued militancy, but the vote is neither for democracy or for India. Pakistan will most likely increase its interference, now that its designs in Punjab and Kashmir stand thwarted. There is an increased threat from the Taliban, who may target the valley after their victory in Afghanistan. The new government of Farooq Abdullah, thus, has an unenviable task ahead, including the challenge of living up to the expectations of the people.*

*It would be a pity if the opportunities now presenting themselves are frittered away by the government, as it has been doing in the past. There is an urgent task to integrate Kashmir in the Indian Union and the signs have never looked as positive as at present.*

**L**OOKING back, it may have been the burning of Char-e-Sharief on May 11, 1995 that brought about a change in thinking of the Kashmiris. Deep inside, every Kashmiri knows that it was the Pakistan-trained militants who had brought about the destruction of the shrine of their patron saint, even though they may blame the In-

dian army outwardly. If there was a single act which exposed Pakistani designs, Kashmiris were left in no doubt this time—it did not care for the people, their culture or their sentiments; its only objective was to create turmoil in the State. Coupled with the daily deaths and terror that militancy had brought with it since 1989, it was natural that the people would get tired of continued uncertainty in the State.

Some 20,000 lives have been lost in the State, and the economy has been shattered. Largely dependent on tourism, the people of the State have seen desolate houseboats and hotels, their sole lifeline, visitors to the Valley and also the economy.

Yet, holding of free and fair elections seemed almost an impossibility just a few months ago. There were warnings that Pakistan would do all it could to prevent a mandate and there would be an upsurge of violence. Even the Lok Sabha elections, held earlier, attracted the charge that the elections were forced by the security forces, a charge which could not stand scrutiny. The holding of free and fair elections is no doubt an achievement, but only a first step in the task of achieving normalcy in the State. India now has the task of building trust and must address the long-standing issue of autonomy if it wants a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem.

The elections show the perceptible change of mood in the Valley. While there may not be positive feelings for India, it shows a change in attitude towards Pakistan. The violence has neither achieved *azadi* nor international backing. The people are fed up of violence and now look for a solution to the problem that has wrecked the State.

### Party Position

	1987	1996
Total seats	76	87
National Conference	40	58
BJP	2	7
Congress	26	7
Others	8	15

### Farooq's Second Chance

**T**HE elections were held despite the boycott by the All Party Hurriyat Conference. National Conference President Farooq Abdullah won a landslide victory in the elections and thus has before him a historic second chance in Kashmir. He has several tasks before him.

Foremost among these is to provide a healing touch to the people of Kashmir, who have borne the brunt of armed militancy. He has to bridge the strained relations between the Muslim majority and the Kashmiri Pandit community by ensuring the latter's return to the Valley. There is also the task of restoring the shaken confidence among the three regions, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, which form the State. Each region is distinct and local aspirations vary, but apart from Kashmir, the two other regions have been neglected over the years.

Perhaps his latest challenge will come from the fact that he will have to keep a high level of security in the State, given the fact that the Taliban have gained control in Afghanistan. It is expected that sooner or later, the Taliban will target the Valley. It is imperative that given this serious threat, the National Conference and the Hurriyat rise above petty politics and fight the menace from across the border, unitedly.

Farooq Abdullah also faces the challenge of taking a stand on the issue of the State's ties with the country. While de-

mands for autonomy have been gaining ground, it would be wrong to interpret the NC victory as a mandate for autonomy. What the Kashmiri people want at this stage is a respectable way out rather than complete autonomy.

Above all, the new government will have to provide a clean administration. It was corruption in public life that alienated the Kashmiri youth in the first place, who then started identifying with the anti-establishment Sheikh Abdullah first and then with the militants. Two commissions, the Sikri and the Gajendera Gadkar commission, have described how greed and corruption vitiated the atmosphere and created problems of governance and regional harmony in the sensitive State. Farooq Abdullah understands this and one of the thrusts of election speeches was on providing a responsive administration.

The government also has to make efforts to rehabilitate the people who were forced to leave the State and also to release the youths who are in jails for minor offences.

### The Autonomy Question

**A**PART from these tasks, one of the most pressing issue to be resolved is that of autonomy. Farooq Abdullah had made it an election issue and it is a question that weighs on the minds of most Kashmiris. So far it has not been addressed because there was no clear thinking on the issue; given the lack of political will, even now it is in danger of getting lost in committees and sub-committees that will undoubtedly be appointed. However, since the National Front government has mentioned the issue in its Common Minimum Programme (CMP), there are hopes that the government may seriously look for a solution.

The matter is complicated since the issue of autonomy is viewed as a separatist tendency and has not given rise to a debate on constitutionalism and federalism in the political system. Can India see it as a demand for decentralisation rather than a demand for a separate State? The issue undoubtedly carries more meaning now that the elections have resulted in the emergence of several regional power blocs and there is no party which can claim to be

a truly national party.

The issue dates back to Sheikh Abdullah, founder of the Kashmir Muslim Conference, later called the National Conference. Abdullah supported secular ideas and was opposed to the idea of joining Muslim Pakistan. In 1948, Abdullah became Prime Minister of Kashmir. He was seen to be working for the independence of Kashmir and was jailed by Nehru in 1953, to be released in 1964. The initial rupture of Kashmir's relations with the Centre thus occurred in 1953 and has simmered for four decades.

The demand for autonomy was also echoed during the Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Deve Gowda said that the "quantum of autonomy" to Kashmir would be decided in consultation with the elected government. The Congress claimed that it is "the only guarantee of real autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir in India through peace and democracy". The CPI and CPM too support autonomy but the BJP is against granting of pre-1953 status to the State.

The pre-1953 status means the system prevailing during Sheikh Abdullah's time. This means that much of the functions of the Indian State would be decentralised and given to the State of Kashmir. The Election Commission would not have jurisdiction over the State and it would also have a separate Supreme Court. The State would have a Prime Minister.

One legitimate question that may arise in that case is about the State's finances. Since the State will be outside the plan and non-plan funds and does not have much industry of its own, it will be dependent on the Centre and will also be open to manipulation by other countries. Returning to the 1956 status would seem more reasonable in this context. In 1956, the State of Jammu and Kashmir adopted its own constitution that affirms its integrity within the Republic of India. Under this, the Central government has direct legislative powers in matters of defence, external affairs and communications. It also has indirect influence in matters of citizenship, Supreme Court jurisdiction and emergency powers.

Returning to the pre-1953 status has assumed great significance now as demands for autonomy have gained ground

in other States too. Can India really afford to return Kashmir to the 1953 position? Yet, among the politicians there is no consensus or even clear thinking as to how to deal with the question. There is much confused thinking as each of our leaders has tried to skirt the issue. If Prime Minister Deve Gowda says that how much autonomy is to be given depends on consultations with the State's leaders, former Prime Minister Rao talked of "anything short of *Azadi*" and that "the sky is the limit" but what that might be was never specified. Atal Behari Vajpayee is of the opinion that Parliament will decide about the autonomy to be given to J&K. What is more likely is that the Centre may not concede complete autonomy and would like to keep some control.

### Security scenario

**T**HE matters are further complicated by the interference of Pakistan and China. Pakistan has been frustrated in its attempts to use the waters of the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab rivers, granted to it under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, since the catchment area does not lie in its territory. The Chinese forces in the northeastern frontiers are another cause of concern. In 1956, China had completed a military road through Aksai Chin. The belated discovery of this road led to border clashes. After China's conquest of Tibet, its forces penetrated into the northeastern parts of Ladakh, which China has occupied since October 1962. India, thus, has a strategic interest in the area. Sandwiched between two hostile neighbours makes J & K a vulnerable State. The country will have to maintain its forces along the borders to ward off any threats from its neighbours.

Going back to the pre-1953 position would seem very unlikely at this stage and some protracted negotiations are in the offing. What cannot be denied is that fresh opportunities have been opened up by the successful holding of the elections and the Centre has to take up a bold initiative for return of normalcy in the State. If the issue is not addressed, the simmering demand will always be exploited by Pakistan and other nations in order to create disturbance in the State.

## ARTICLE

# Eradicating Rural Poverty in India

*With about 70 per cent of her population living in rural areas, India is primarily an agrarian society. The urban settlements are a direct result of industrialisation and hence people are allured to these areas by relatively higher levels of income. The population which continues to live in the rural areas has to face abject poverty in most of the cases. As the level of general economic activity and availability of employment opportunities is low in the rural areas, the incidence of poverty is relatively high. To combat this problem, special efforts are made by the government to ensure sustainable rural development and alleviation of rural poverty.*

## Historic Perspective

CENTURIES of economic exploitation by the alien rulers had left India economically impoverished at the time of independence. Farmers were taxed exorbitantly and were not provided any relief at the times of distress caused by the natural calamities like droughts, floods, famines or epidemics. Maladies like absentee landlordism, contract farming and large-scale tenancies had almost ruined Indian agriculture. The onslaught of manufactured goods imported from industrialised Britain had virtually destroyed the rural artisans and craftsmen. Further, devastation was caused by the partition of the country, leaving the entire economy badly shattered. The independence, therefore, brought about only political freedom but there was no economic emancipation for majority of the rural population.

The process of economic planning in India has, among other things, also aimed at alleviation of rural poverty, which has been one of the primary objectives in al-

most all the plans. Many programmes and plans were brought out by the government to overcome this problem. Towards the end of Fifth Five Year Plan, it was realised that despite hundreds of crores of rupees invested in this sector, the incidence of poverty was over 48 per cent. Hence, the existing policies were revised, and the government decided to launch a "frontal attack" on the problem of rural poverty. A new programme called Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was thus launched with the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Progress of the IRDP was monitored by the Planning Commission till recently and as per the estimates of Planning Commission, the incidence of poverty in India came down to 29.9 per cent in 1987-88 and its incidence in the rural areas was 33.4 per cent. But, to carry out detailed estimates by using correct methodology and computations, Planning Commission appointed an Expert Group in September 1989 to carry out fresh estimates. The Expert Group relied exclusively on National Sample Survey (NSS) Data on consumption expenditure to assess the incidence of poverty. As per the estimates of the Expert Group, 39.3 per cent population lived below poverty line in India in the year 1987-88.

A study by OXFAM revealed that in the year 1993 as many as 48 per cent people in India were living below poverty line, which is not only disturbing but also baffling. With such a study coming out on the eve of election year, the government was quick to react and made public the latest estimates of NSS, by which it was held that the percentage of population living below poverty line was only 19 per cent in 1993-94, as compared to 29.9

per cent in 1987-88.

## Poverty Line

TO identify the persons living below poverty line, the government has defined the "Poverty Line" in terms of calorie intake norms. Following the recommendations of the Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand (1979), the poverty line was defined as the per-capita monthly expenditure needed to obtain the consumption providing 2400 calories per capita per-day in rural areas and 2100 calories per capita per day in the urban areas. Hence, the poverty line initially defined was converted in money terms (with 1973-74 as the base year) at Rs 49.10 for rural areas and Rs 56.60 for the urban areas. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, the poverty line was re-defined at an average annual income of Rs 6400 per annum. But only those families having an average annual income of Rs 4000 and less were to be considered for assistance. The target of families/households to be assisted under the 7th Plan was 20 million out of which 10 million were old households, which needed a second dose of assistance.

During the Seventh Plan, the total funds spent on IRDP were Rs 3316 crore, as against the target of Rs 3000 crore. But in terms of number of families assisted the actual performance fell short by 4 million and only 16 million households living below poverty line were assisted. During the Eighth Plan the poverty line in monetary terms has been revised upwards to Rs 11,000 per annum per family.

It is observed that the monetary calculation of "Poverty Line" has a signifi-

cant element of subjectivity in it. Thus, the estimates of persons living below poverty line made by NSS and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) from time to time vary markedly.

## Programmes

**T**HERE have been many programmes adopted by the government from time to time to alleviate poverty, particularly in the rural areas. Depending upon their performance, success and feedback, many programmes have been modified while others stand abolished and replaced by some new ones. The so called "frontal attack" on poverty aims at providing assistance to the beneficiary target group, as against the hitherto adopted policy of "trickle down". Adopting an integrated approach, several new programmes were launched during and after the Sixth Plan which are still in vogue, some of which are as under:

(a) **IRDP:** Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was launched in the Sixth Five Year Plan. It aims at identifying the people below poverty line, with a family as a unit, and providing them with financial assistance for acquiring income generating productive assets by giving a loan and subsidy package. The programme aims at enhancing the income of the poor families in such a manner so that they not only repay the bank loan with subsidised rate of interest but also increase their disposable income to cross the poverty line.

(b) **TRYSEM:** Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) is yet another important anti-poverty programme which aims at providing training to the rural youth belonging to the identified IRDP families, assisting them to acquire new technical skills and upgrade their traditional skills. The objective is to enable such persons to take up self-employment ventures in different sectors, as per the requirement in the rural areas concerned. The beneficiaries may also take up wage employment. Government provides stipend to the trainees and honorarium to the trainers and the developmental agencies at the

block level are also made responsible for their rehabilitation.

(c) **JRY:** Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is another programme which is aimed at providing wage employment. The programme generates additional employment on productive works in the rural areas, which not only provides wage employment to the rural poor, but also contributes to the creation of rural infrastructure. Under the programme the funds are allocated to the Panchayats and the Central government contributes 80 per cent while the States pool in only 20 per cent of the total annual assistance. Two previous schemes called National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) have been merged with JRY now.

(d) **DWCRA:** Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was launched as a poverty eradication programme in the year 1982-83. It was initially launched in 50 selected districts, but was extended to 161 districts by the end of Seventh Plan. It now stands extended to all the districts. Under the scheme, groups of women belonging to the target group families are formed and provided assistance to take up viable economic activities. The scheme is aimed at supplementing the family income of the families living below poverty line by providing marketing support and forward and backward linkages, in addition to the financial assistance in the form of one time grant as a revolving fund.

(e) **Other Schemes:** There are various other programmes aimed at rural development. Some areas specific programmes like Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) etc. also aim at employment generation and rural infrastructure creation. Housing Programmes for the poor and weaker sections namely, Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Gandhi Kutir Yojana (GKY) also seek to assist the rural poor directly. Million-well scheme provides open wells to the poor SC/ST farmers and freed bonded labourers. These wells or any other related infrastructure aim at providing irrigation facilities to the poor SC/ST

farmers to improve their agricultural yield. Land reforms, although not specified as purely a poverty alleviation scheme, have played an important role in this direction.

## Critique

**S**INCE independence, hundreds of scores of rupees have been spent on rural poverty alleviation and successive governments have been adding new schemes to the existing programmes to eradicate poverty. But the OXFAM estimation of 48 per cent of the population still living below poverty line in 1993, is quite disturbing. In other words, all these programmes have not yielded the desired results. Right from the identification of the beneficiaries to effective follow up of their progress after providing assistance, the programmes have many loopholes. There are many financial organisational and institutional factors responsible for this. Inadequacy of financial assistance, wrong identification of beneficiaries, lack of marketing linkages, target orientation, political interference and malpractices are some of the common ailments in almost all the programmes. Efforts have been made from time to time to overcome these hurdles but the problem persists. Unless the implementing agencies are adequately strengthened, on the one hand, and made fully responsible, on the other, it would be extremely difficult to plug the loopholes.

Now a word about economic reforms. The estimation of people living below poverty line carried out by the NSS reveals that during the era of reforms, the incidence of poverty increased in the first 2 years and declined thereafter. The reason could be that in the initial phase of reforms (1991-93) no special efforts were made to strengthen these programmes and only after 1993, when the elections drew closer, efforts were made to give a human face to the reforms. With the resolve of UF government to continue with reforms, special efforts are required to strengthen these programmes, financially as well as conceptually, so that the poorer sections are not forgotten in the quest for rapid economic growth. Poverty eradication, after all, still remains our foremost planning objective.

## DEBATE; DISCUSSION

# Should the Planning Commission be Abolished?

*Planning is recognised as the touchstone of good economic management. In an oft repeated cliché, it is said that actions without a plan are like sailing a ship without a rudder; you do not know where you will end your journey*

*In the area of macro-economics, the Planning Commission has stood colossus-like in planning for the country. But what have been the results of the effort? The country is still poor, deficits are looming large and there is today a very real possibility of the country getting into a debt trap. In the face of these facts, one may legitimately question what the Planning Commission has been doing for all these years—has it been planning for the country's ruin?*

*Moreover, the opening up of the economy raises further questions about the need for a Planning Commission. A free economy has its own mechanisms for resource allocation and does not rely on State control. The two concepts are mutually contradictory. So does the Planning Commission still have relevance? Or should we discard it since it has no explicit or implicit function to fulfil?*

**Mr A** I would like to start by putting the topic in the right perspective. Planning is an important function, in the sense that it tells us where we are going. It is always better to plan ahead so that future directions can be known and corrective action taken where necessary. Since India was following the path of a controlled economy for many years, the Planning Commission had an important function to perform. It indicated the allocations required in various sectors; after all, there were some sectors which could not be left to private enterprise since large expenditures had to be made.

Only the State could do that. There was also the matter of social projects, which would benefit large sections of society but which could not have high returns on investment in economic terms. Private entrepreneurs could not be expected to take up such projects. The Planning Commission ensured that government spending would be given a direction. Now, of course, the circumstances have changed. A free market implies weakening of government intervention. Under the changed conditions, the relevance of the Planning Commission can certainly be questioned. However, I would like to add that even in a free market, there may be certain areas where the Planning Commission could contribute meaningfully. I do not think that it should be abolished.

**Mr B** I agree with your sentiments, but I would like to ask what planning has done for the country in over forty years. The proof of the pudding is in the eating; do the plans made by the Planning Commission reflect the state of affairs as they exist today? Did the Commission forecast the morass of problems that we find ourselves in today? For instance, we are so heavily indebted that we have a real danger of going into a debt trap. The public sector saps our resources like bacteria. Rural areas have been ignored and it is the urban, English educated elite that rules the country. Government spending is out of control. Some years back we had to ship out our gold to raise money. In more ways than one, we are an impoverished nation. Did our plans point to this? If they did not, what has been their

relevance? It seems that plans were made for paper only, so that they could be presented in Parliament and newspapers could print them and say how good our economic management was. Since those rosy dreams have not been realised, I am constrained to ask, what is the point in painting them anyway? The Planning Commission has been a fraud on the people of this country.

**Mr C** You cannot really say that. We certainly have achieved many things as a result of planning. We have better roads, more villages have electricity and telephones, the poverty figures too show a favourable trend. True, some of the dreams have not been realised, but you cannot say that the Planning Commission has been totally useless. In Nehru's time, when the country did not have reference points about economic planning, it was eminent economists in the Commission that helped guide government allocations. Even in a free economy, there is a role for macro-economic planning, as the Commission's deputy chairman Madhu Dandavate has observed, "the State has to be the instrument of social dynamics to bring about growth through social justice". Surely the State cannot give up this function, which continues to be as relevant today as it was fifty years ago.

**Mr D** These statements are all very well but I regret that they do not mean a thing. We have been trying to achieve social dynamics since the start of planning, but where have we reached? Income disparities have widened and



the poor have continued to live in misery. It seems that members of the Planning Commission are fond of spouting statements which do not mean anything. Also, they seem to take their job casually, churning out 'approach papers' and fashionable rhetoric. The Planning Commission is used by the government to give jobs to those who cannot be employed elsewhere. It does not have professionals—the last deputy chairman was Pranab Mukerjee, a politician. The present government has given the job to Madhu Dandavate, who should have retired by now. As regards the other members and advisers, some of them are from the World Bank/IMF coterie, which explains why there is no new economic thinking in the country—all of them toe the IMF line. Certain academics like Dr Y.K. Alagh are also given jobs in the Commission, since they cannot be taken in the government. My point is that Planning Commission jobs are handed out as doles and there is no serious commitment to planning. That is why the Commission has never criticised the government, even though successive governments have continued to mismanage the country's resources. What good is such planning? We should seriously think of shutting it down and saving some government expenditure. It is, after all, the taxpayers' money that supports such monoliths.

**Mr E** I would like to go a step further. When the country is removing controls on the economy, what can the Planning Commission contribute anyway? Since planning has failed to deliver the results, it is better if free market mechanisms are left to solve problems of allocation of resources. In market economies like Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, private companies can operate freely within government defined parameters of macroeconomic stability. In the US, government spending is decided through a democratic process. No prosperous country has such huge set-ups like our Planning Commission, which must be a unique organisation outside the Communist world. Since

1991, it has been in a limbo. It was not even involved in the designing of reforms. In the last five years, particularly, the Commission has not done anything worthwhile. Increasingly, it will have less to do, as free economy takes over.

**Mr A** Still, you cannot say that the Commission is absolutely useless, even though it has outlived its importance. Even in the changing economic environment, it has certain functions. First, it should define public investment policy. Second, it should serve as a link between the Central and the State governments. And third, it should encourage research in long term policy planning. These are important functions and the Planning Commission can easily do them. Union Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation Y.K. Alagh has pointed out that growth cannot be the only objective of reforms. Even to develop market-based institutions, government intervention is required. The need for government intervention cannot be written off altogether—the Planning Commission should not be abolished on the basis of a few years of liberalising the economy.

**Mr B** I think that this is a wrong line of reasoning. Agreed, growth cannot be the only objective of reforms, but do we need a Planning Commission for achieving other objectives? And the answer is no. We have to have a radical shift in thinking. Government must be downsized if we are not to squander all our resources in unproductive departments. The Planning Commission is unfortunately a white elephant. One shortcoming is that though it makes the plans, it has no way of ensuring that they are implemented properly. In the past, things have happened which the Planning Commission had no clue about nor were they included in any plan. Liberalisation is one of them. We have been talking for years, for instance, about privatising of the public sector; little has actually been done so far. Leaders, for their part, cannot be tied

down to the discipline that economic planning imposes. For instance, a leader can announce waiver of loans amounting to crores of rupees or even a mid-day meal scheme, and the plans go for a six. That is another reason why the Planning has kept on becoming irrelevant.

**Mr C** But I hope that you realise that liberalisation and too much emphasis on free market systems increase the gaps between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. We need a mechanism that ensures free market with a human face. We should not rely on Western systems alone. I agree with you that certain amount of downsizing should be affected: there is no need for such an elaborate Commission that we have had for years. The Planning Commission should also shift its emphasis from a purely consultative role that produces 'approach papers' by the dozen, to a more useful role. It cannot be an agency that merely doles out grants. The answer is not to abolish the Planning Commission but to change its orientation. Rather than academics and politicians, it might be better to induct people from the private sector, which would give it a more practical and productive orientation. We should make away with IMF-type consultants who are deviously pushing our country towards harmful policies for their own personal benefit. The Commission should plan for liberalisation and not merely be happy in allocating capital expenditure to ministries. It has to come out of the control of bureaucrats. Rather than closing it, the Planning Commission should be restructured to fulfil a positive role.

**Mr D** After discussing the topic, we seem to have reached a consensus that the Planning Commission as it exists today, cannot serve the needs of the nation any longer. It is time we shed our mindsets and stop using cliches to defend the Planning Commission as it exists. After 50 years, surely we can look forward to a fresh approach to planning for the country's future.



## MANAGEMENT

# Business G.K.

Match the company with its CEO and latest turnover figures:

Company	CEO	Turnover
1. TELCO	1. Kumar Mangalam Birla	1. 3,782
2. Grasim	2. K.B. Dadiseth	2. 777
3. Castrol	3. S.N. & R.N. Ruia	3. 2,781
4. ABB	4. Y.C. Deveshwar	4. 7,791
5. Hindustan Lever	5. Keshub Mahindra	5. 5,371
6. Siemens	6. Atul C. Choksey	6. 1,175
7. Ashok Leyland	7. J.J. Irani	7. 4,262
8. Essar Steel	8. Ratan N. Tata	8. 547
9. Larsen & Tubro	9. R. Gopala Krishnan	9. 851
10. ITC	10. S.A. Lister	10. 2,112
11. Tisco	11. K.N. Shenoy	11. 903
12. Mahindra & Mahindra	12. A.B. Kerker	12. 3,209
13. Asian Paints	13. R.J. Seshasayee	13. 2,056
14. Brooke Bond Lipton	14. K. Pernstich	14. 5,121
15. Colagte-Palmolive	15. S. Kulkarni	15. 1,736
16. Indian Hotels	16. R.A. Savoor	16. 613
17. Century Textiles	17. V. Thyagarajan	17. 730
18. Glaxo	18. B.K. Birla	18. 896
19. Nirma	19. David Thomas	19. 268
20. Procter & Gamble	20. Karsanbhai K. Patel	20. 393

(See Answers on next page)

Q. How is market capitalisation of a company computed?

A. It is computed as the product of the number of shares in its paid-up capital, and the price of its share—on the Bombay Stock Exchange/any other major exchange—on a particular date.

Q. Which is the largest steel producer in the country?

A. The 5,262 crore, Tata Iron & Steel Company (TISCO). It has a capacity to produce 2.7 million tonnes per annum of steel (tpa) at the Jamshedpur plant.

Q. What is FRA?

A. Forward Rate Agreement. It is a contract between two parties that lays down the interest rate that will apply to a loan or a deposit that may or may not be drawn or placed on a mutually agreed date in future for a specified period of time.

Q. Who is the author of the new book entitled "Towards Sustainable Growth, essays in Fiscal and Financial Sector Reforms in India"

A. Raja J. Chelliah. It is a collection of essays on liberalisation.

Q. What is the State of the country's combined budget deficit of the 26 State governments?

A. A research project conducted by the RBI reveals that the figure has shot up from Rs 132 crore in 1994-95, to Rs 2,651 crore in 1995-96. It is a phenomenal increase of 1,908 per cent.

Q. Which Indian bank has come up with the largest ever net loss of Rs 1,336.40 crore by any bank?

A. The Madras-based Indian Bank. The present chairman of the bank is S. Rajagopal.

Q. Which is the fastest growing tractor company in India?

A. Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE). It is a 726.9 crore, Madras-based company.

Q. What are the names of the finance secretary and the economic advisor in P. Chidambaram's Finance Ministry?

A. Montek Singh Ahluwalia is the Finance Secretary and Shankar N. Acharya is the Economic Advisor.

Q. Which Co. is behind the brand name of 'Dove' beauty soap?

A. Hindustan Lever.

Q. What effect will the 1996 budget have on Indian cigarette companies and why?

A. Cigarette companies are expected to gain from the lower corporate surcharge.

Q. Which industrial sector has been provided with a 3-year tax holiday in the 1996 budget?

A. Pharmaceuticals.

Q. The Union Civil Aviation Ministry is planning an aviation service in Mumbai to relieve high spending travellers from time consuming road travel. What is this plan and which 2 points does the plan seek to connect initially.

A. The plan is to start a city helicopter service, that will have two helipad sites at Nariman Point, linking it to the Santa Cruz Airport.

Q. Who is the Chairman of the SBI?

A. P.G. Kakodkar.

Q. Who is the Managing Director of "Cogentrix"?

A. Ron Somers.

Q. Which company has launched Akai music systems and TVs in India?

A. Baron International Ltd of Japan.

Q. Which is the single largest shareholder in the Indian Tobacco giant ITC?

A. British American Tobacco (BAT).

Q. Who is the well known industrialist who was appointed recently to the board of the Commonwealth Development Corporation?

A. H.S. Singhanian, President of J.K. Organisation.

Q. The reduction of the proposed price hike in diesel has effected a deficit of Rs 1,980 crore. Which are the three Indian oil companies that share this pool?

A. Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Q. What is the full form of SCICI? What is their latest venture in the capital market?

A. The Shipping & Investment Corporation of India Ltd. Their

latest venture has been to offer a Rs 500 crore bond issue to the public.

**Q.** Why was Swaraj Paul in the news recently?

**A.** The 65-year old Chairman of the Caparo Group was honoured with membership in the House of Lords. He has been a recipient of the *Padma Bhushan* award earlier in 1983. Arriving in London in 1966, Swaraj Paul rose to become one of the most well known NRI business tycoon.

**Q.** Who headed the committee to draft a new takeover code for companies?

**A.** Headed by the former Chief Justice of India, P.N. Bhagwati, the committee to draft a new takeover code was appointed by the Securities & Exchange Board of India. In its draft version the focus has been on transparency and protection for small shareholders.

**Q.** Which company has LML announced a joint venture with?

**A.** With Facind. It is a subsidiary of Piaggio, Italy. The joint venture has been announced by the Kanpur-based LMI, in its electronics division.

**Q.** Who is the chairman of the UB Group?

**A.** Vijay Mallya.

**Q.** Doordarshan has recently announced an increase in the number of its production centres. How many new centres are proposed to be opened?

**A.** Doordarshan plans to set up 32 more production centres. With this, its total number of production centres will be 75.

**Q.** Which is the Indian Company that Volvo of Germany has tied up with? What is the venture about?

**A.** With TVS Suzuki. They plan to set up plants in the State of Karnataka to manufacture vehicles for domestic and foreign markets.

**Q.** What does "Niesa" stand for?

**A.** The National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM) has launched the "Niesa"—Nasscom's India-Europe Software Alliance in 1995, and since then there has been a growth in Indo-European software trade.

**Q.** Which company has bagged the contract for ONGC's off-shore platform at Bombay?

**A.** ESSAR Oil Ltd. It has bagged the contract for the third successive time.

**Q.** What does ONGC-VL stand for?

**A.** ONGC-Videsh Ltd. It is a venture for taking up oil exploration abroad.

**Q.** Which are the two parties involved in GMI venture?

**A.** The General Motors India (GMI) is a joint venture between General Motors and C.K. Birla group. It is currently assembling Opel Astra in Halol, Gujarat.

**Q.** Approximately how many Non Banking Financial Companies are there in the country?

**A.** It is estimated that there are 40,000 NBFCs operating in the country. Of these, only 450 are registered with the RBI.

**Q.** Who is the new President of the Oberoi Group of Hotels?

**A.** Ravi Bhoothalingam has recently taken over as President of Oberoi Hotels.

**Q.** What is the Liela Seth Committee inquiring into?

**A.** Liela Seth is the former Himachal Pradesh Chief Justice, who is conducting a judicial inquiry into the circumstances leading to the late biscuit tycoon Rajan Pillai's death.

**Q.** What is Kapil Dev's latest Financial Venture?

**A.** He has floated a new Finance Company called Ganga Yamuna Finvest Private Ltd. Kapil Dev's first venture was a successful media syndication.

**Q.** What is the full form of MAT?

**A.** Minimum Alternate Tax. It falls in the category of presumptive taxes, a tax system that has been successfully used in some other countries, like in Latin America. It is used to increase tax revenue.

**Q.** What major incentive does this year's budget offer to encourage R & D?

**A.** Pure Research and Development based companies will get a five-year tax holiday. Many of them will also receive grants and get excise and customs duty exemption.

**Q.** What is IRBI and what is its role?

**A.** Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India. Its focus of operation is to revive sick units.

**Q.** Which UTI mutual fund scheme has the largest number of investors—probably in the world?

**A.** Mastergain 1992.

**Q.** Which company is leading the market of the notebook version of Personal Computers (PCs)?

**A.** Compaq, with its 17% share. It is followed by IBM and Acer.

**Q.** What is the name of the first Korean Commercial Bank to have opened a branch in Mumbai in May this year?

**A.** The Cho Hung Bank of Korea. In the 1970s, the Indian Overseas Bank had set up India's only bank in Seoul.

**Q.** Who has taken over as representative of Rupert Murdoch's Star TV in India?

**A.** Rathikant Basu. He has joined as the chief executive of News Television India—the local arm of the Hong Kong-based Star T.V.

**Q.** What is the recent government notification to amend the Drug Order about?

**A.** The government notification is to bring about a uniformity in price marking between price-controlled formulations, and those outside government price control. Henceforth, all formulations will be marked with the 'local taxes extra' specification which was, earlier, relevant only for price-controlled formulations.

#### ANSWERS

1. 8, 4	6. 14, 6	11. 7, 5	16. 12, 8
2. 1, 12	7. 13, 13	12. 5, 3	17. 18, 15
3. 16, 17	8. 3, 2	13. 6, 11	18. 17, 16
4. 11, 18	9. 15, 7	14. 9, 10	19. 20, 20
5. 2, 1	10. 4, 14	15. 10, 9	20. 19, 19

# ADMISSION ALERT

## The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

*This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.*

### Engineering

**Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE-97):** To be held on: February 9, 1997. Eligibility: Bachelors in Engineering/Architecture/Pharmacy. Last date: November 15, 1996. Forms available with SBI Main branches by payment of Rs 500 in cash.

### Entrepreneurship

**Open Learning Programme in Entrepreneurship:** Minimum Qualification: SSC or HSC. Batches start in October 1996 and January 1997. Apply to: OLPE Cell, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, P.O. Bhat - 382 428, Gujarat, with a DD for Rs 50 in favour of EDII, Ahmedabad.

### Industrial Design

**Common Entrance Examination for Design (CEED-97):** Master of Design at IITs Bombay and Delhi (2 years). Eligibility: Bachelors in Engineering, Architecture or Art/Design. Written test: February 16, 1997. Last date: November 15, 1996. Apply to: Chairman, GATE, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 along with a DD of Rs 100 and 2 address slips.

### Human Resources

**Diploma in Training and Development:** (Correspondence, 18 months). Eligibility: Graduate with 2 years experience in Training/HRD function or post graduate degree in a relevant discipline. Last date: November 30, 1996. Apply to: Incharge Diploma Programme Office, Indian Society for Training and Development, B-41 Institutional Area, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110 016 with a DD for Rs 50 favouring ISTD, New Delhi.

### Management

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**2. Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPM):** Eligibility: Minimum 50% marks in graduation and high school. Written test: CAT

on December 8, 1996. Last date: December 14, 1996. Apply to: Administrative Officer (Admissions), Management Development Institute, Post Box No. 60, Mehrauli Road, Sukhrali, Gurgaon - 122 001 with a DD of Rs 350 and an application to CAT.

**3. Aptitude Testing Services:** Global Indo MBA Admission Test (G-Indomat) to be conducted on November 30, 1996, February 9 and May 18, 1997. Last date: October 30, 1996. Apply to: ATS, Post Box No. 9607, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110 058 with a DD for Rs 250 in favour of ATS.

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**6. BBA/MBA:** Eligibility: Graduate for MBA and class 12 for BBA. Written test: MAT on December 1, 1996. Apply to: Empi Business School, CSKM Educational Complex, Satbari Mehrauli, New Delhi - 110 030 with a DD for Rs 350.

**7. PGDBM:** Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline. Written test: December 22, 1996. Last date: November 30, 1996. Apply to: NIMT, Delhi Ghaziabad Highway, Opp Priyadarshini Park, Near Hindon Bridge, Ghaziabad with a DD for Rs 250.

**8. MBA:** (2-year, full time and 3-year, part time). Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline. Written test: CAT on December 8, 1996. Last date For issue of form: October 31, 1996 and for submission: December 2, 1996. Apply to: Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM), Management House, College Square (West), Calcutta - 700 073 with a DD for Rs 215.

### Merchant Navy

**Marine Engineering Foundation Course:** Eligibility: B.E. (Mech) and age below 25. Apply to: Applied Research International, B-1, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110 016 with a DD for Rs 200 payable to "Applied Research International".

### Scholarships

**Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan:** Subject fields: Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture and Humanities. Level: Masters or doctoral degree. Last date: October 31, 1996. Apply in the prescribed format to: Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education (External Scholarship Division), A1/W3 Curzon Road Barracks, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001. For details see advt published on September 21, 1996.

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## CAREER

# Careers After Senior Secondary/Matriculation Education—II

*In addition to a few careers options already discussed in the previous issue of the Competition Master, there are several other openings available to the school leavers, both in the employment and self-employment categories.*

### Careers in Financial Institutions

There are many financial institutions like Commercial Banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation (GIC), which regularly recruit personnel for positions like clerks, clerical assistants or assistants. Educational qualification for most of these positions is 10 + 2/Higher Secondary/Matriculation with good division. The Commercial Banks carry out the recruitment for the posts of clerks/stenos and typists. For recruitment to the post of typists/stenos/additional typing or/and shorthand skills are required by the candidates, besides required educational qualifications. The age limits are 18 years to 26 years. The recruitment is done for all public sector banks through several branches of Banking Services Recruitment Board (BSRB).

Similarly, RBI conducts examination for recruitment of clerks, which comprises of a written test and interview. The vacancies are notified in all leading national and regional dailies as and when such vacancies arise. The educational qualifications range from a good Matriculation degree to 10 + 2.

### Engineering and Technical Courses

There are many Engineering and

Technical courses which equip the school leavers with technical and engineering skills to enable them to pursue careers in these lines. First and foremost is the admission to an Engineering College for a graduate degree course. Duration of the course is 4 years and the candidates with 10 + 2 qualifications with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics are eligible to seek admission to Bachelor of Engineering courses in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Aeronautics, Agriculture or Industrial Engineering. Admission to various Engineering Colleges, Regional Engineering Colleges, Indian Institutes of Technology, and privately run Institutes is generally based on the merit obtained in the entrance test. Minimum age generally is 17 years but may vary slightly from institution to institution.

In addition to the degree courses in Engineering, 3-year Diploma courses are also offered by various polytechnics controlled and run by State Directorates of Technical Education and Training in almost every State. The qualifications required in this case range from 10th standard to 10 + 2 with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and the admission is generally granted strictly as per the merit of marks obtained in the academic examination. There are certain non-engineering trades like ceramics, printing, production and chemical technology which are of lesser duration.

In addition to these courses several other courses in many trades are offered by the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and several ITIs are there in every State. There are several engineering and non-engineering trades offered by ITIs and other such institutions both in government and private sector. The educational qualification required ranges from Middle stan-

dard to Matriculation examination. The period of training is 1 to 2 years and the candidates are awarded a certificate in the field concerned and are then eligible to take up various technical trades in the government as well as private sectors.

### Medical Courses

MBBS is the most sought after career in the field of medical sciences. It is a degree course for which minimum required qualification is 10 + 2, with at least 50 per cent marks and having subjects like English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Minimum age limit is generally 17 years. The admission to various medical colleges is held by way of competitive examinations conducted by different colleges separately in which the candidates are tested in all the above mentioned subjects. Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) New Delhi also conducts an all-India entrance examination every year. Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) Pune also offers degree courses in medical science and the selected candidates are awarded the bachelors degree, but with a condition to serve in the Army Medical Corps as doctor for a minimum contractual period.

In addition to the degree courses, there are many other openings in this field to the school leavers. There are many institutions, mostly owned by the Government, which offer training courses in General Nursing and Midwifery and Health Visitors. Minimum required age is 17 to 18 years and duration of the training ranges from 2.5 years to 3.5 years. Required educational qualification is 10 + 2 pass or equivalent with Biological and Physical Science subjects.

In the medical line itself, diploma/

certificate courses are open to the eligible candidates in the fields of Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Refractionist and Optician, Vaccinator, Dark Room Assistant, Radiographers, Laboratory Technicians, Sanitary Inspectors etc. The duration of the training courses is 6 months to 2 years and on successful completion of the diploma/certificate course, the candidates may be appointed as technicians in the concerned trade. Required educational qualification is 10 + 2 or equivalent for Pharmacy and 10th pass for the para-medical courses. Generally the candidates with medical subjects are eligible.

### Education

School leavers can also join the teaching and allied professions by acquiring required skills. School leavers may undergo a Diploma course for Nursery and Primary Teachers. The educational qualification required is 10th or 10 + 2 and the duration of the course is 2 years. The training courses are generally conducted by the Departments of Primary Education in various States and details about the institutions and date of examination can be had from Director of Primary Education of the concerned State government.

Certificate or diploma course in Library Science also offers good opportunities to the school leavers. The qualifications required range from 10th pass to 10 + 2 and in some cases some experience in recognised libraries is desirable. These courses are conducted by various universities and other institutes.

### Telecommunications

Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers also trains the willing candidates and awards a Diploma in Telecommunication Engineering. Aspiring candidates are required to have High School qualification with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. They are further required to be enrolled as a student member in the diploma scheme. On successful completion of the course, the students are awarded diploma in various disciplines. Details can be obtained from the Secre-

tary, Institution of Electronics and Telecom Engineering, 21 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

In addition, the Department of Post and Telecommunications also recruits Matriculate/10 + 2 pass candidates to various posts like Postman, Mail Sorter, Postal Clerks, Telegraph Clerks, Record Clerks and Store Clerks. The age limit is generally 18 to 25 years and there is usual age-relaxation and reservation of vacancies for specified categories as per the government rules.

### Architecture, Art and Painting

School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi offers degree courses in Architecture and Physical Planning. Minimum required qualification is 10 + 2 with English, Physics and Mathematics and 60 per cent aggregate marks. Minimum age is 17 years and the duration of the course is 5 years. Selection is made by way of an entrance examination which includes tests on General Knowledge, I.Q. and Aptitude Test. Candidates who qualify the degree course may pursue careers in architecture and planning both as paid employees or as self-employed professionals.

Artists also have varied opportunities. Exponents of music, dancing and acting have openings in stage, Radio, T.V. or even movies. In many arts, formal training is not required as it mainly depends upon the aptitude and natural talent of the artists. But it is always better to have formal qualifications in the concerned field from schools or colleges of art. Candidates with matriculation or 10 + 2 qualifications are generally eligible for diploma or degree courses in arts, which have 3 to 5 years duration, respectively. Career opportunities in the self-employment are also immense for artists in various fields. Art teachers are also required by the educational institutions, polytechnics, galleries, museums, interior decorators, designers etc. Cartoonists and art critics are employed by the newspapers, magazines, publishers, art studios, advertising agencies and film and T.V. studios. Similarly, performing arts like music and dancing also have their own set of opportunities.

A few are employed by teaching institutions and performing troupes. They are also employed by Kala Kendras, Academies, Film and T.V. Studios, All India Radio and large hotels.

Printing is yet another area which offer numerous opportunities to the school leavers. There are six Regional Schools of Printing Technology located at Bombay, Allahabad, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi and Pune which provide training to students in all the subjects of printing technology. These schools offer full-time and part-time courses in printing technology. 12th pass candidates who are 17 to 20 years of age are eligible for Diploma course in Printing Technology.

### Self-Employment

There are plenty of self-employment opportunities for school leavers. Broadly speaking these are in the fields of Trade and Business, Manufacturing, Professional Practice and Free Lancing. A candidate interested in self-employment may engage in a retail shop, wholesale dealership, commission agency, general order supplier, real-estate business, bakery, confectionary, furniture shops, binding, catering services for marriage parties etc., selling, commercial typing, petition writing, stamp vending, chemist shop etc. There are many other such self-employment avenues which may be taken up, depending upon the aptitude, experience, family business and competition in the close vicinity.

There are various schemes under which loans at subsidised rates are provided by various financial institutions. To name of few, TRYSEM, SEEUY and PMRY are there. Department of Industries in every State also carries out entrepreneurship development programmes for persons interested in any of the manufacturing activities. Trained persons are then provided all possible assistance by the government to set up small and medium sized manufacturing facilities. Loans for self-employment are also provided by the Commercial Banks, State Financial Corporations and various other private and government lending institutions.

## PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

# Transform Your Personality

ONE major misconception nursed by young men and women is that they are born with a certain personality and that nothing much can be done to change it. In other words, they condemn themselves to a kind of mental, emotional and intellectual status quo and pass through life without realizing their real potential.

Dr Rotter debunks this misconception with a single telling sentence: The personality is learned.

Personality is that magnetic and mysterious something that is easy to recognize but difficult to define. It is not acquired from without, it is released from within.

In all social relationships we constantly receive monitoring signals which govern our freedom of expression. A smile, a frown, a hundred different subtle clues of approval or disapproval, interest or lack of interest continually advise us how we are doing, whether we are getting across.

Such signals can, of course, be helpful. But if you become too consciously concerned about what others think, inhibition and poor performance follow.

"Who are the scholars who get 'rattled' in the recitation room?" asked William James. "Those who think of the possibilities of failure and feel the great importance of the act... Just as a bicycle chain may be too tight, so may one's carefulness and conscientiousness be so tense as to hinder the running of one's mind."

A salesman, when he first left home, was painfully self-conscious, especially when eating in a hotel.

Why was he so ill at ease? He knew that he knew enough social etiquettes to get by. Why had he never felt ill at ease when eating in his home? It was because when he was eating there, he was not concerned about *producing an effect*.

Dr Albert Edward Wiggam, educator and psychologist, in his early years, was so

painfully self-conscious that he found it impossible to recite in school.

He constantly fought his self-consciousness until one day he realized that his trouble was not self-consciousness at all, but "others-consciousness".

He was sensitive to what others might think of everything he said or did. With this realization, he concentrated on developing more self-consciousness: feeling, acting, behaving, thinking as he did when he was alone, ignoring how others might feel. It worked, and in time he became a highly successful public speaker.

"Conscience doth make cowards of us all", wrote Shakespeare. Conscience itself works in much the same way as an electronic computer.

### Mind-feeding

THE answers a computer gives are reliable only if correct information has been stored in it before it is given problems to solve.

In the same way, if your basic beliefs are sound, conscience becomes a valuable guide in deciding what is morally right and wrong. But if your basic beliefs are not sound, your conscience can be misleading.

If you are among those who suffer misery and failure because of inhibition, you should deliberately practice disinhibition. You need to practice being less careful, less concerned, less conscientious.

"Personality" comes from two Latin words "per" meaning "through" and "sonare" which means "to sound". "Personality", thus, is the medium through which the self communicates and deals with the world.

A person does not exercise much conscious choice in presenting himself but there are times when he is aware that he

can "choose" his personality. Take an example. You have an interview or appointment with a VIP. What kind of personality do you choose to project at that time? Obviously, your best and the most pleasant one.

This kind of *manipulation* is the *lowest kind of personality*. More important areas of your personality can be brought to the conscious plane and changed. All you require is the necessary know-how.

Personality is never static. It is always in a flux. Do you have the same personality today as you had 10 years ago?

No. It has changed-for the better or the worse. If you agree to this concept, it will be easier to agree that most changes were the result of circumstances. In other words, you yourself did not exercise much conscious control over the changes. The choice was missing.

It means that much of your personality was a coating on you. You had made no effort to acquire it.

Gordon Allport, another luminary in the field, says that the crux of personality is in interaction of three things: habits, traits and attitudes. Habit comprises a repetitive act. Trait is a tendency to do the same thing over and over again. Attitude is reflected in the expression of your opinions.

### Triology

THIS trilogy has one thing in common: It is acquired. If you tell lies, you learned that lying pays. You acquired it. If you are sympathetic, you acquired it thinking that it pays in the world.

If strangers make you ill at ease, this is result of your watching people who felt likewise. The trilogy of habits, traits and attitudes can be learned in more than one way. They can also be unlearned.

Middle-aged men go to gyms and



parlours. They are striving to recapture their youth. They are bravely trying to fight the onset of old age by giving themselves a *new-look personality*.

Once they learn the techniques of transforming their selves, they change their old hair styles, begin to wear new kind of clothes and look more attractive. The sartorial trumpets herald a new era in their life. Old-age-blues disappear.

### Deficiency

**WE** are haunted by some sense of inadequacy. The task of changing personality revolves round making good that deficiency. This amounts to developing the "muscles" of personality.

Suppose the personality to be changed is not essentially suffering from a sense of inadequacy but is only warped. In other words, how can a negative and neurotic personality be transformed? The task is difficult, not impossible.

Dr Albert Ellis suggests that wrong personality stems from irrational attitudes. He has listed the following fallacies: an adult must be loved or approved for everything he does; anything not suiting or to our liking brings disaster; happiness stems from outside us, circumstances and people; unpleasantness should make us put up our heels; difficulties should be avoided rather than faced; one must have a strong shoulder to lean on in times of crisis; a human being should be a picture of perfection—an image of God—his maker. Less than that he deserves condemnation; others' sayings and actions are going to play havoc with our life; happiness stems from non-activity and non-action.

These irrational attitudes have to be fought on the battle-front of rationalism.

The essence of rationalism is: try so that these attitudes surface; to destroy them with constant rational attacks; and then to substitute them with positive and more rational ones.

We have countless examples of young girls who after being ditched in love affairs develop an attitude of I-hate boys. Of course, their feelings are dominated by their sentiments. It means that once they were dominated by the attitude that something which dominated their life once should dominate it for all times to come.

The logic behind this conception is open to objection. It is good to profit from one's past experiences but it is not intelligent to be *attached* to them. Worse still is the case of those who are *dominated* by them. It is the case of the past ruling the present and over-ruling the future!

Such girls, when they resume normal activity, improve their educational qualification, improve the shine on their face and personality, emerge from the shadows and enter a new and rewarding life in which love comes automatically. More rewards follow in due course of time.

This approach is equally applicable to the attitude that bad actions are wrong and sinful and have to be punished with severity. Guilt complex has resulted in a countless number of men and women with bleeding hearts and wounded conscience. Their personality is understandably warped.

Such people deny themselves all pleasantness in life. They do all kinds of things which invite unpleasantness. The neurotic personality is by and large distorted by several false attitudes.

The return-back process is therefore much more complex but the important fac-

tor to realize is that once we become aware of our false attitudes and their destructive effects on personality, we are more than willing to bring about the transformation.

### Expressive

**A** good personality does not necessarily mean a popular personality. The two are different things. A good personality is one in which one is able to express himself or herself as a kind of person one really is. It is an expression of one's real, inner being, not a put-on.

The most important step is to raise your personality to the conscious level and subject your habits, traits and attitude to a close and objective analysis. It is equally important to fix your objectives in a rational manner. The next step is to select one trait which takes you nearer to your goal and objective. Begin by taking one small habit and then put it to practice.

No one else in the world can give you a new, more useful personality. There is only one being who can. It is YOU. You have to work for it, on it.

Do not expect miracles. Changes in personality come through slowly and gradually. From the conscious level to the subconscious level is a small route but it takes a long time.

Unless your changes sink into the subconscious, these will remain rootless. Personality will go unchanged. Slowness should not result in desperation or defeat.

Small changes brought about slowly can work miracles. Acorns grow into mighty oak trees. William James, father of modern psychology, enunciated the principle that action can produce results as readily as emotion.

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# General Studies

## Solved Questions on Expected Topics for the General Studies Papers, 1996

**Q. 1.** "Corruption in public life and services in India has reached enormous heights." Explain the dimensions of the problem. Does the existing legal framework provide sufficient safeguards against corruption? What steps do you suggest to tackle this problem effectively?

**Ans. 1.** Starting mainly from the securities scam of the year 1992 and 1993, India has been experiencing one scam after other. Not very distant in the past, Bofors payoffs had rocked the nation when allegations were levelled against many politicians. Recent "Hawala" scam is different from Bofors to the extent that many accused persons have unabashedly admitted having received the payoffs, but for the "party fund". Many other scandals like Lakhubhai Pathak Forgery case, Harshad Mehta payoffs, Telecom Scandals, Urea Scam etc have also come to the notice of the nation during recent years, involving top politicians and bureaucrats of the country. This type of widespread bribery is unmatched by any such incident in any part of the world.

Unnecessary controls, undue secrecy, centralisation of authority and lack of transparency in government functioning are some of the important causes which breed corruption in public life and services. The existing legal framework to deal with this menace includes the statutes like Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Representation of People Act, various other related local Acts and the Conduct Rules for the public servants. Some of the States have created the institution of *Lokayukta* (Ombudsman) but the Centre is yet to set up the institution of *Lokpal*, to check corruption in public life and affairs. The existing statutes are sufficient to prevent and punish public servants indulging in corrupt practices but most of the politicians may not fall in the definition of public servant, for the purpose of the Prevention of Corruption Act. There is, thus, a need to expand the scope of the said Act. Moreover, the proposed bill on the *Lokpal* at the Centre and *Lokayuktas* at the States should have a wider scope to have all the politicians, at all levels and positions, within its ambit.

To deal with the growing menace of corruption more effec-

tively, the following measures are suggested:

- (a) Strengthen and modify the existing legal statutes to make them more stringent.
- (b) To bring the politicians within effective legal framework and declare all such politicians ineligible for political life, who indulge in any type of corruption.
- (c) Bring in more transparency in the affairs of the government.
- (d) Contributions to the political parties should be legalised.
- (e) Punishment in corruption cases should be made more stringent and harsh.
- (f) Anti-corruption wings of the Central and the State governments should be strengthened and made independent.
- (g) Government functioning should be made absolutely transparent.

*This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Main) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. While in previous issues we had given selected questions from previous examinations, this issue incorporates topics which our experts feel might be asked in this year's examination.*

**Q. 2.** What are "Administered Prices"? Describe the rationale of having administered prices in a developing economy. Also describe the need to, and impact of, recent hike in the administered prices of petroleum products.

**Ans. 2.** In every developing economy, some degree of government control is necessary to ensure equitable distribution, availability and reasonable pricing of some essential and scarce commodities. The mechanism adopted for this purpose is known as, "Administered prices". Since independence, this mechanism of administered prices is being used in India to control and regulate the prices of commodities like coal, diesel, petroleum, LPG etc. Most of these items are scarce and limited in availability. Being essential commodities, the government has kept the control over prices with it. In case of Diesel, Petrol and LPG, the international prices at times keep on fluctuating. While at times the government may need to subsidise the prices, at times it may try to recoup the deficit.

In a developing country like ours, administered price mechanism becomes essential to keep the prices at reasonable levels as well as to ensure availability. The government has also taken some legislative and administrative measures to ensure that these controls are effectively executed. But, with the improving levels of economic development the controls may be lifted gradually.

The example of cement and sugar prices can be taken in which some quantity of production was covered under the administered price mechanism, while the remaining production was allowed to be sold at the prevailing market rate determined by the forces of demand and supply. A couple of years ago, the government had decided to do away with dual pricing policy for cement, as the supply of cement was considered to be sufficient to meet the demand. The government is seriously contemplating changes in the Public Distribution System and excluding non-poor from its operation. If this takes place, the percentage of levy sugar in the total production of sugar is likely to come down considerably.

Recent hikes in the administered prices of Petroleum, Diesel and LPG have been criticised by many sections being "excessive". 30 per cent rise in prices (in case of diesel which was reduced to 15 per cent later) is one of the highest increase ever. The government maintained that since 1992, there was no increase in these prices while the prices in the international market had increased significantly. The deficit in oil pool was described to be excessive and even after this hike, considerable deficit in the said pool would remain. The government also maintained that during the past four years the price level had gone up without corresponding rise in the administered prices of these products. Undoubtedly, the hike is going to have its bearing on the price level. The rate of inflation, which had gone down to the level of 4 per cent, reached 5.33 per cent within a fortnight of the hike and continued to increase thereafter.

**Q. 3. What is CTBT? Why was it in the news recently? Describe the main controversial issues in the draft of the Treaty. What is India's stand on the treaty and what are the options after India's veto of CTBT Draft?**

**Ans. 3.** CTBT stands for Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. During the second world war, the world had witnessed the devastating capabilities of nuclear weapons. The stock of these weapons increased manifold with the 5 nuclear powers which includes the USA, the UK, France, Russia and China, particularly during the cold war years during seventies and eighties. As per one estimate the five nuclear powers had carried out over 2000 tests up to 1995 and possessed over 16,000 nuclear weapons upto 1995, which are sufficient to destroy this planet several times. More than 50 per cent of the weapons are held by the USA alone. Efforts were made by the humanity in the past to control the production of such weapons for the future. In the year 1971, the world community signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Main provisions of the treaty were that non-nuclear countries were not allowed to pursue the development of nuclear technology, though there was no such restriction on the 5 nuclear powers and the nuclear powers were prohibited from disseminating the information on nuclear weaponry to non-nuclear countries. India had opposed the NPT from the very beginning, mainly on the grounds of it being discriminatory against the non-nuclear countries on the one hand, and lack of disarmament clause in it, on the other. Since then it had been demanding a comprehensive

treaty which is non-discriminatory as well as also aimed at reducing the stock of existing nuclear weapons and warheads. The world community, in May 1995, permanently extended the NPT but again, India was not a signatory to it and stuck to its earlier stand.

Fresh talks on a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing started in January 1994 in Geneva. Several countries, including India, recommended a comprehensive treaty to replace the NPT. Such comprehensive treaty was sought to have an in-built time-bound plan for global disarmament which would gradually result in total destruction of existing nuclear weapons, in a phased manner. The United States of America wanted to have some legal basis for the treaty so that it could be enforced by the United Nations.

**Draft Treaty and Controversial Issues:** 44 nations were identified as signatories to the treaty. U.K., Russia and China demand that the five nuclear powers and three "threshold" nations (India, Pakistan and Israel) should sign the treaty as original members, while all other participating countries who have nuclear reactor programme should sign the treaty. The UN also requires that before the treaty, as circulated to the member-nations for approval, the draft be approved by all the 44 participating nations. If any of the nations does not approve the draft, it would be deemed to have been vetoed. The approved draft was required to reach the United Nations by Sept 18, 1996 and as per the original schedule, the member-countries were required to ratify the treaty, latest by January 1999.

The draft of the treaty, which was discussed by 61 participating countries in August, 1996, includes a provision for comprehensive ban on the nuclear tests and proliferation of nuclear capabilities. In the original draft even the peaceful explosions were banned but after a request received from China, it was agreed to incorporate a clause to review Peaceful Nuclear Explosions after 10 years of the Treaty. The Treaty also has a provision for a periodical physical inspections of nuclear installations, weapons, warheads etc to ensure that no country carries out any activity contrary to the provisions of the Treaty. The draft CTBT also provided for political and economic sanctions against the nations which violate any of the clauses of the Treaty.

There are two main controversial issues on which 61 nations, which were discussing to decide legal and political basis for the Treaty, deliberated at length. The first unresolved issue is "Entry into Force" clause. This provision contained in Article XIV of the Chairman's speech on the draft of the Treaty states that by January 1999, when all the participating nations ratify and sign the Treaty, CTBT will enter into Force. America has also suggested that even if all the countries do not ratify the Treaty by the due date, the ratification procedure should be amended to ensure its enforcement. This suggestion is apparently aimed at sidelining the objections raised by India. The second controversial issue is with regard to the "Verification Regime", which provides for penal action against the defaulters. The identification of defaulters and physical verifications for legal action are two related problems on which most of the participating countries

had diverse views. Upgrading of International Monitoring Stations was another related issue.

**India's Stand and Options :** India was opposed to the draft right from the beginning. Indian Ambassador Ms Arundhati Ghose criticised the draft treaty as merely a "Nuclear Weapons Test Explosion Ban Treaty", as it had nothing for destroying the existing nuclear warheads. Moreover, possibilities of non-explosive testing and upgradation of existing nuclear warhead delivery systems were not covered to be checked by the draft.

While Pakistan insisted that there should not be any change in the "Entry into Force" clause, India severely criticised this clause and opposed it. It was described by Ms Ghose as "unprecedented in the history of International treaties that a sovereign nation is required to sign a treaty against its will under implied threats". She, thus, made Indian stand clear by rejecting this clause altogether in any form and refused to send it to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) under any circumstances. After detailed discussions, India formally vetoed the CTBT draft in August 1996.

After the Indian veto, CD had three options as under:

(a) Recommend to the UN General Assembly that there was no consensus on the draft in the Ad-Hoc Committee. Such an option was a diluted basis for a CTBT.

(b) Re-introduce the text (draft) of the CTBT, vetoed by India. But this option was only political, not procedural.

(c) Send back the report to the Ad-Hoc Committee for further work, as was suggested by some participating countries.

Notwithstanding the global pressure, mainly from the USA, Indian veto of the text of the CTBT has reaffirmed her resolve and stand on the NPT. Unless the five nuclear powers bind themselves to gradual and phased destruction of existing nuclear arsenal, CTBT in its present form is also going to be discriminatory. India has done well to resist arm-twisting by the 5 nuclear powers while exercising her sovereign right to veto any International Treaty which runs contrary to its national interests and security.

#### Q. 4. Answer the following questions:

(a) What were the causes that led to Quit India Movement? Describe briefly the events and the manner in which the movement was handled by the British government.

(b) ".....Ours is a non-violent battle. We are not to kill anybody but it is our Dharma to see that the curse of this government is blotted out." In the light of above statement of Mahatma Gandhi, describe the rationale and events of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

**Ans. 4. (a)** There were many causes which led to Quit India Movement, as under:

(i) The British government, without consulting the Indians, declared India also as a warring nation on behalf of the British. It was realised that the presence of Britishers in India was an open invitation to the Japanese to invade India.

(ii) The offer of the Indian National Congress to help the British government in the hour of crises was not reciprocated

adequately by British, who were evasive and non-committal on the issues of independence to India after the war.

(iii) The long drawn nationalist movement resulted in the patience of the leaders weathering out and they wanted a strong movement to throw the Britishers out.

(iv) Failure of Cripps Mission to provide satisfactory solution to Indian problem was also responsible for the launching of Quit India Movement.

(v) Reverses faced by Allied Forces convinced the Indians that the Europeans were not an invincible race and could be defeated and thrown out. Although Indians were opposed to the Fascist forces, yet Japanese conquests and the role of Indian National Army encouraged the Indians to launch a fresh movement to throw out the British.

On the night of August 8, 1942, All India Congress Committee which met at Bombay, proposed launching of a mass movement under the leadership of Gandhiji, called the "Quit India Movement". But before the movement could be formally launched, the British government arrested Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders and the Indian National Congress was declared illegal. Even without leaders, Indians observed strikes and hartal in industrial establishments, business establishments, schools and colleges. The British government suppressed the movement with a heavy hand. People were arrested, lathi-charged and fired upon. Angry crowds destroyed government offices and buildings as a mark of protest. Although Bengal and Madras were the most affected States, the movement also spread to the provinces of U.P., Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Parallel governments were temporarily set up at many places.

The oppressive measures adopted by the Britishers left over 10,000 persons dead in police and military firing, with thousands injured. The press was completely blacked out. Prisoners were tortured. Agitating villagers had to pay huge sums as punitive fines. Finally, the government succeeded in crushing the movement. But the intensity of the movement reflected the strong feelings which the Indian masses had against the alien regime. It was also a reflection of the nationalist feeling among the people, even when they were left without any leader.

**Ans. 4. (b)** After 1921, there was a lull in the nationalist movement. The period from 1921 to 1927 has been that of reorganisation and emergence of new forces. In between, the revolutionary movement and leftist movement emerged on the Indian scene. A major event was the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930. There were several causes and rationale which led to the start of the movement by Gandhiji which are as under:

(i) New militant spirit which emerged in the Congress due to the rise of young leaders like Jawahar Lal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Bose during 1928-29 changed the nature and methods of the Congress and the newly risen leaders were eager to start a mass movement to oust the foreign power.

(ii) The famous resolution of the Congress passed at its session at Lahore on December 31, 1929, declared total independence or Poorna Swaraj as its objective. The Congress had decided to launch a mass movement, leaving it to the discretion of Ma-

hatma Gandhi as to how it was to be planned and executed.

(iii) The spirit and rationale of Civil Disobedience Movement was reflected by the famous Dandi March by Gandhiji to protest against the tax levied by the British government on making even the salt. Salt was chosen by him, as this commodity was used by everyone, including the poorest persons and tax on salt affected the poorest of the people too. Hence, it helped the movement to become a mass movement.

Gandhiji's movement was peaceful in the beginning. In many parts of the country people started violating the salt laws. There were peaceful *hartals* and demonstrations leading to "Boycott" and "Swadeshi" in many parts of the country. People disobeyed the authority of the Britishers and refused to pay common taxes like land revenue, *chowkidara* tax and rent. Women and students participated in the movement in large numbers. The movement not only found its way into the rural areas in large parts of the country, but also reached the remote corners in some cases. There were a few incidents of refusal to obey the orders to open fire by some of the soldiers which meant that the feeling of nationalism had penetrated into the minds of all sections of the society.

As in case of most of the movements, the British government came down heavily on the satyagrahis. Over 90,000 persons, including Congress leaders, were arrested. Official estimates put the number of dead at 110 and injured at 300, while unofficial estimate puts this number much higher. The Civil Disobedience Movement has its own place and importance in Indian Nationalist movement. It put a new life in the movement and involvement of the masses increased the awareness among them. The reign of suppression let loose by the Britishers further convinced the Indian masses that it was high time to seek independence from the foreign rule. The movement further kept alive the negotiations for power transfer in the form of Round Table Conferences and also resulted into passing the government of India Act of 1935, which later formed the basis for formulating the Indian Constitution.

**Q. 5. "Judiciary in India has assumed enormous power in the recent years." In light of the above statement, do you find any contradiction with the constitutional provision for supremacy of the Parliament? Are any safeguards necessary against the so called "judicial activism" in vogue?**

**Ans. 5.** Fundamental Rights are considered to be the most important and pragmatic manifestations of democracy in Indian political system. It was realised by the makers of the Constitution that written Fundamental Rights were of no use if proper protection was not provided to these basic rights. Hence the concept of Rule of Law was introduced which assures equality before law on the one hand, and protection of fundamental rights by the High Courts and the Supreme Court on the other. At the same time, the Constitution also provides for the supremacy of the Parliament. But many laws, acts and statutes passed by the legislature are struck down by the Supreme Court every year, being *ultra vires* of the Constitutional provisions.

While in America, Judiciary has assumed supreme position,

in England the parliament has an upper hand. India has a happy blend of both these concepts. Any act of the legislature which contravenes any of the fundamental rights of the citizens can be struck down by the Supreme Court. This "Judicial Review" does not provide the Judiciary with the power to scrutinise the wisdom of legislative policy.

The above constitutional position has, however, been experiencing gradual change in favour of the Judiciary. Over the years now, the Supreme Court has evolved a concept called "Basic Feature" concept which has put restrictions on the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution. Every amendment to the Constitution is subject to the judicial review and any amendment which aims at altering the basic features of the Constitution, is struck down by the Supreme Court. Another important development which has strengthened the Judiciary since eighties, is the concept of public interest litigation where a person himself need not be an aggrieved party, if he wishes to approach any court of law. Moreover, any matter of public interest can be taken to the courts for adjudication by any person.

Recent years have witnessed the Judiciary assisting actively in exposing the cases of corruption in public life. It has also been observed that people are approaching the courts on various matters of administrative nature and where considered expedient, the courts have been providing relief to the aggrieved persons. Even in the matters pertaining to executive and legislature, the courts have been intervening and ensuring that no arbitrary acts of these two organs of the government infringe upon anyone's fundamental rights and alter the basic features of the Constitution. Such instances are far too many.

The acts of Judiciary have largely been appreciated by the media as well as the common man. Judiciary today is providing desired relief against the arbitrary acts of the Executive and the Legislature. But views are expressed at times that the Judiciary in India has assumed enormous powers and in the years to come, it may result in distortions in the system if certain safeguards are not taken. Some of the safeguards recommended are as under:

(a) There is a need to have All India Judicial Service, so that the best talent is attracted to join this service. The judicial officers of this service must be provided best possible service conditions to ensure their free and fair execution of duties.

(b) The government by statute, or the apex court by its order, should lay down specific limits in administrative and legislative matters so that the courts subordinate to it to function within the prescribed limits. This would bring an end to unnecessary conflict of the Judiciary with the other organs of the government.

(c) There should be some objective criteria in selection of legal experts to the posts of superior Judiciary to do away with political and subjective considerations. This would result in free and independent functioning of the Judiciary.

(d) Supreme Court should have an exclusive division to consider the Constitutional matters. Moreover, computerisation of all High Court and Supreme Court orders, alongwith their

categorisation and cataloguing would immensely assist the judges of these courts to quickly and rapidly scan through the earlier orders in similar matters. This would result in early disposal of cases and more coherence in the orders.

**Q. 6.** What do you understand by democratic decentralisation? What steps have been taken to ensure this? Do you think that decentralised democracy and planning would offer a panacea to most of the problems in the rural areas? Will the attempted empowerment of women have a positive impact on their socio-economic condition in the rural areas?

**Ans. 6.** India is known as the largest democracy of the world. The roots of democracy in India are deeply entrenched and the democratic institutions have grown to the level of maturity in India now. In many States, Panchayati Raj institutions have continued to exist since long. Such institutions have been strengthened from time to time. Some of the States had earlier adopted the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee recommendation and introduced a three-tier system of Panchayati Raj Institutions. But many States were not keen in introducing the Panchayati Raj institutions and as a result, decentralisation of the democracy was not achieved. Reason for such reluctance was that there was no constitutional provision providing for democratic decentralisation.

Rajiv Gandhi government was very keen to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, but his efforts could not succeed. It was then left to Narasimha Rao government to introduce the Panchayati Raj Institutions, thereby taking the democracy to the grass-root level. Introduction of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Indian Constitution has ensured that no government in the States can now dither in getting the timely elections to these institutions. This has provided democratic institutions right at the village level and fulfilled, to some extent, the long cherished dream of Mahatma Gandhi. Many States which did not adopt this decentralised form of democracy, had to adopt it as per the Constitution and elections in many such States have already taken place for the Panchayats and other related institutions.

There are no two views on the axiom that "India lives in her villages." With predominantly rural population of over 70 per cent, rural development has continued to be a problem in India. In a typically dualistic economy, rural areas have lagged behind in the process of economic development. The problems in rural areas are many. Besides basic needs of roads, water and electricity, the economic problems like lack of economic activity, lack of employment opportunities, poor cleanliness and sanitation, poor productivity of the agricultural sector, poor health and medical facilities, inadequate educational facilities etc., are some of the glaring problems needing immediate attention. Under the amended Constitution every State government is expected to have a State Finance Commission which would recommend the State revenues to be shared with the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Commission would also explore the possibility of additional resource mobilisation by these institutions. Decentralized planning is the logical extension of

this system and these newly constituted local bodies are expected to cater to the local needs to ensure that most of the problems at the local level are sorted out. While the government investment in the areas like roads, electricity, water, irrigation etc. would continue, in addition to the Central government investment on telecommunication, post and telegraphs, infrastructure, banking facilities etc, the local bodies are expected to take up the matters of local interest like poverty alleviation, local housing to the poor, employment generation, generation of forward and backward linkages for the local produce and its marketing, local artisans and their welfare, primary education etc.

The constitutional amendment on Panchayati Raj also lays adequate emphasis on empowerment of rural women. Socio-economic and historical reasons have resulted in exploitation of women in the rural areas. Despite many programmes to uplift the rural women, their lot has not experienced the desired improvement. The new democratic decentralisation, thus aims at providing 30 per cent reservation for women, so that they get adequate representation in the process of community decision making. This change is likely to improve the socio-economic condition of the women in the rural areas in due course of time. With 30 per cent women at the democratic and economic decision making level at the Panchayati Raj Block and Zila Parishad level, a discernible change is likely to be experienced in the socio-economic and political lot of the women in the rural society in the years to come.

**Q. 7.** "Five-year period of reforms has ushered in an era of rapid economic development and prosperity." Critically analyse this statement. With United Front (UF) government at the Centre, what is the future of reforms?

**Ans. 7.** As per the update of the Economic Survey released by the UF government before the presentation of the budget for 1996-97, the Eighth Five Year Plan, during its first four years ending March 31, 1996, has achieved an average annual growth rate of 5.9 per cent. This achievement so far is higher than the plan target of 5.6 per cent of the GDP. During the previous financial year, growth rate of the GDP was as high as 7 per cent and that too without much assistance from the primary sector. Growth rate of the industrial sector was 11.7 per cent while the service sector grew by 7 per cent. Rate of inflation was also as low as 4.2 per cent at the end of the year. Foreign exchange reserves were at comfortable level of about \$ 17 billion and the growth rate of exports in dollar terms was over 20 per cent for the third year in a row. Gross domestic savings, which were a cause of concern between 1991-92 to 1993-94 and had gone as low as 21.2 per cent the GDP during 1992-93 were again at a comfortable level of 24.4 per cent of the GDP during the year 1994-95, the latest year for which these figures are available.

The above scenario, when compared with the economic scene in 1990-91, is quite encouraging. Mainly due to sustained growth of exports, imports and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)—



which was to the tune of \$ 2 billion during the previous financial year—the industrial sector is upbeat. If the budget for the year 1996-97, presented by Mr P. Chidambaram, is any indication, industrial upsurge is going to stay. Pro-Agriculture measures taken by Deve Gowda government are likely to enhance the agricultural production considerably, particularly with a good monsoon this year, which is eighth year of good monsoon in a row. This year's budget lays specific emphasis on the growth of infra-structure and in the years to come this sector is going to contribute significantly to the over-all growth rate. The new government has also made its intentions on the public sector known. The new policy on disinvestment of public equity is likely to have a positive effect on the functioning and profitability of the public sector. The United Front government has also resolved to take up the unfinished task of financial sector reforms and is likely to take up comprehensive reforms in the insurance sector during 1997-98. It, therefore, appears that an era of rapid growth and overall well being of the economy has emerged.

But then, there are some grey areas also. Poverty alleviation and rural development remained low on the agenda of the previous government, particularly during its first three years. Though the overall incomes have grown, the income disparities have not narrowed down and the number of poor persons has, in fact, gone up during the period of reforms. Investment in social sector, including welfare, rural development, health and sanitation and education has remained stagnant. Even the agricultural sector has not received the attention it actually deserved. Capital investment and modernisation in agriculture has continued to remain low and no serious efforts have been made in the process of reforms to consolidate this important sector, which could result in higher productivity and thus higher production. The scenario of fiscal deficit is also not cheerful. Despite its claims and efforts, the government has not been able to contain the fiscal deficit within safe limits, thanks to high non-plan expenditure, debt servicing commitments and high level of subsidies. In addition, the fruits of rapid economic development have failed to trickle down to the rural poor, resulting in skewed redistribution of economic gains.

The new government at the Centre appears to be tackling these issues seriously, while deciding to go ahead with the process of economic reforms. One of the main obstacle in the way of high FDI has been the apprehension of political instability and uncertainty about the economic policies of the future governments. Hence, the indication that the process of structural reforms is going to continue, is a welcome development and the future gains from reforms are also likely to be more.

**Q. 8.** The table below gives statistics relating to the number of locomotives of different types such as steam, diesel and electric as well as the number of coaching carriages and the number of wagons, which were operated on the Indian Railways during 1950-51, 1960-61, 1965-66, 1970-71 and each year from 1972 to 1978.

Year	Number of Locomotives				No. of coaching carriages	No. of wagons
	Steam	Diesel	Electric	Total		
1950-51	8,110	17	72	8,199	18,608	2,05,595
1960-61	10,312	181	131	10,624	28,440	3,07,907
1965-66	10,613	727	403	11,743	32,890	3,70,020
1970-71	9,387	1,170	602	11,159	35,745	3,83,990
1972-73	8,900	1,430	670	11,000	35,996	3,84,282
1973-74	8,850	1,610	670	11,130	36,420	3,88,365
1974-75	8,650	1,702	730	11,082	36,565	3,90,965
1975-76	8,490	1,803	795	11,088	36,818	3,95,210
1976-77	8,260	1,903	845	11,008	36,795	3,97,775
1977-78	8,220	2,025	901	11,146	37,220	3,99,970

What conclusions can be drawn from the above table with regard to various types of traction utilisation of coaches and wagons? Keeping the above statistics in view, what measures are called for to gear up the railway services to meet the growing needs of Indian economy?

**Ans. 8.** The following conclusions can be drawn from the above figures about the traction utilisation of coaches and wagons:

(a) During the period 1950-51 to 1977-78, the total number of locomotives increased from 8,199 to 11,146. The number of locomotives of all types have remained almost stagnant during 1960-61 to 1977-78, while after 1965-66 to 1977-78, the number of total locomotives came down from 11,743 to 11,146.

(b) The composition of the total locomotives available is changing gradually. Number of steam locomotives has almost remained same at 8,220 in 1977-78, as compared to 8,110 in 1950-51, after peaking at 10,613 in 1965-66.

(c) Number of diesel locomotives has been increasing smartly and has gone up from just 17 in 1950-51 to 2,025 in 1977-78. Electric locomotives are also increasing but with a slower pace and have risen from 72 to 901 during the same period.

(d) Number of coaching carriages has doubled from 18,608 in 1950-51 to 37,220 in 1977-78. Number of wagons has also almost doubled from 2,05,595 to 3,99,970 during the same period.

(e) Steam engines are being phased out and largely being replaced by diesel locomotives. Number of electric locomotives is increasing slowly, as relatively lesser tracks have electric lines to accommodate such engines.

(f) The public carrying capacity, so far as coaching carriages are concerned, has doubled but the availability of total number of engines has risen by just 35.9 per cent. In other words, the pressure on the locomotives is on the rise.

(g) Number of transport wagons has also increased almost by double, with the above mentioned increase in the availability of locomotives. Though the utilisation of locomotives might have increased, but the pressures on the locomotives also might have increased considerably.



# Descriptive Questions

## Ragging in Colleges

**Q. Ragging in Colleges should be banned. Substantiate the statement with your views based on observations, knowledge and reading.**

**Ans.** Ragging in colleges, especially in the professional ones, has assumed dangerous dimensions and calls for immediate remedial measures. Ragging, as a practice borrowed and distorted beyond recognition and redemption, was an innocent expression of jokes and gestures towards freshers or new entrants in British institutions of higher learning. In the initial stages of English-oriented education introduced after Macaulay's concept of Education for Indians during the British Rule in India, ragging was confined to some harmless acts of introduction, jokes and the like. But, like every good thing that has gone down the slope and become an instrument of terror and tribulation, ragging too has become a matter of deep consternation and concern that should brook no delay in curbing it in the present fearful form. If need be, any act of ragging, that borders on harming the helpless victim with physical or mental aberrations, should be made a cognizable offence and thus banned without any further delay.

If rigging vitiates the election process and renders it null and void, ragging that causes anguish and agony to the affected person, violates human dignity. Newspaper reports, even if taken with a pinch of salt, describe many "unmentionable" acts of ragging that can break anybody's patience and forbearance. In certain cases, the sensitive minds are driven to take such course after having been harassed and humiliated in the name of 'introduction', 'hand-shaking' and the like that their en-

tire personality is shaken and the psyche inside shattered. Ragging becoming an instrument of sadistic pleasure for the perpetrator, and a state of near nervous break-down for the victim, is a matter that should make all academicians, administrators and right thinking people sit up to shake off their indifference to the growing menace on campuses and hostels.

The abject attitude of casualness and callousness towards problems, both minor and major, should be given a go-bye by those in whose hands the responsibility of young entrants or first-year students is reposed. If the things are allowed to deteriorate in the name of some treacherous tradition or coercive custom, that day is not far off when 'suicides' or 'murders' would become a part of campus life. If ragging has to continue as a legacy of the 'Raj', it has to be freed from the tentacles of torture, tyranny and trauma, both in letter and spirit.

## Problems of Green Revolution

**Q. Some people think that even the Green Revolution has created problems. Give your views on the statement in the light of your experience, reading and inter-action with experts, if any.**

**Ans.** If it were possible to have development without destruction and increased production in fields/farms and factories without pollution, the world at large would have been spared the spectre of so many ills that loom large over the land, space and water. No doubt, the spectacular success of Green Revolution in India has warded off the constant threat of famine or scarcity of food-grains afflicting some part or other of this vast country. The stigma of living in a situation

where import of food-grains on a massive scale was inescapable, is no more a taunting torment to our self-respect and self-reliance. Not only has the Green Revolution brought prosperity to the Indian farmers in some States, it has also filled the granaries to the full to face any eventuality in future. But, ironically enough, the gift of Green Revolution is not without a bagful of problems that it has caused and if some experts are worried on this account, their fears are genuine and based on the ground realities.

The problems that stare us in face include excessive use of chemicals, increased salinity, silting of dams and dislocation of people where such dams are constructed or are under construction, submersion of fertile land and forests in the lakes that result from the making of big dams, water-logging, regional disparities in production and prosperity and the mounting agricultural subsidies on various counts. According to a World Bank report, increased use of fertilizer in irrigated areas has also become a cause for concern as marginal returns to fertilizer use are peaking. Besides, water shortage threatens to become India's greatest environmental crisis.

In the opinion of experts, and they are quite a large in number and knowledge, agricultural practices such as the use of fertilisers and insecticides, irrigation and crop rotation, are seriously damaging India's ecology. Some of the consequences of these practices include deforestation, poor soil health, water logging, soil erosion and ground water depletion. If the success story of Green Revolution has been a boon for Indian rural masses the ill effects of the great phenomenon are too visible to be put under the wraps.

In order to bring about a happy and harmonious balance between the fruits of Green Revolution and deterioration or degradation in the eco-system, or ecology, the need to bring a larger proportion of land under permanent vegetation with trees and pastures is here and now, so that the gains in agricultural production are not lost in ecological disturbances. May be, much has been achieved towards improving the well-being of Indians, but the achievement has been appropriated at the cost of degrading the natural resources to a point where it seems irreversible.

### Television Watching and children

**Q. Television boom has adversely affected the minds and sensibilities of children. Substantiate the statement with general facts and trends discernible in daily life.**

**Ans.** Any addiction is bad as it affects both the physical health as well as the mental make-up of the addict in varying degrees. If taking drugs, drinking wine or whisky or smoking (chewing) tobacco can tell upon a person's health and home, too much of television-watching, specially by children and adolescents, can prove equally harmful and harrowing. Serious studies made by some social groups and enlightened individuals, both at home and abroad, reveal disturbing after-effects of television-viewing for long hours by children. One such study conducted by the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP—Cochin) makes startling revelations.

The study makes alarming revelations in the nature of general facts or conclusions which tell that the time spent by children in front of the idiot box is equivalent to that spent by them in school. If the children are allowed to watch the television at this rate or in this manner, by the end of high school, they would have watched thousands of murders and as many rapes, bombings and suicides. Added to this, over a lakh nude, semi-nude, intimate and suggestive sequences would have happened before their eyes on the small screen, adversely affecting their minds and dis-

torting their immature but innocent sensibilities.

It is not only the emotional side of their personality that is going to be spoilt or soured by programmes, serials, clips and other visuals on the idiot box, but also their eye-sight, as has been found out among Japanese children who begin to use glasses in their childhood. One of the major causes of their eye-sight becoming weak is attributed to watching television for long durations. The study further points out to disturbing consequences due to thousands of advertisements per year, which result in the consumption of food and other eatables with high sugar content.

Most of the crimes, and violence committed in childhood and adolescence, have been linked or associated with the negative effects of tele-watching of such scenes as glorify death and destruction, both by heroes and villains alike. Many children get tempted to the thrill that aggressive behaviour or defiance of authority, distorted perceptions of reality, trivialisation of sex or human relations, reduction of cognitive skills and increased passivity enthuse in them to make them mentally sick and emotionally bankrupt.

### Disappearance of medicines

**Q. If all the medicines disappear from the world at once, what will happen? Give three important consequences if such a situation happens.**

**Ans.** Miracles, though beyond the purview of rational explanation, lift the drooping spirits and revive faith among the non-believers but massive mishaps spread gloom and extinguish the light of hope and purpose among the sufferers and their kith and kin. If by any chance or quirk of circumstances, all the medicines, whether Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic or of any other system, disappear from the world, the resultant situation will be too intolerable to live with. Ever since medical science under different systems made its appearance in this world and medicines began to be made or manufactured for

treatment of different ailments, both the average span of life and its enjoyment have been on the rise, barring those situations when epidemics struck and took a heavy toll of life. In the present day world, where speed and success, tensions and traumas are a part and parcel of every aspiring person, health-care and health-clinics too have become an integral and inalienable features of every upwardly mobile social segment or individual. But, if there are doctors and no medicines, accidents, injuries but no tranquillizers or pain-killers, the plight of the victims will be too horrible to visualise.

Those living on life-saving drugs will have to face the immediate threat of an imminent death once the medicines disappear from the market. Equally dismal will be the fate of those who suffer from deadly diseases like cancer. When there are no medicines to administer and fight against the onslaught of sickness, the very relevance of hospitals, health-centres and the like will become a question mark. What will the doctors do when the medicines they prescribe are not available nor do they have any other alternative to suggest? Both the patients and the poor doctors will be at the receiving end emitting nothing but blankness and helplessness on their part.

Millions of people, engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of medicines will lose their jobs. All work related to research and development of new medicines in the light of new diseases and ever cropping up complications will come to a grinding halt. Doctors without work would find time hanging heavy on them and such a sinister situation would be highly unpalatable and unworthy for them.

Out of the colossus crisis and chaos, only the naturopaths will find the going good for them. Since their treatment of illness is based primarily on suggesting changes of diet, exercise etc and without using medicines, they will be the only persons in great demand. Even they may fail to cope with the new situation because of their numbers being limited as compared to the patients.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NATIONAL

### SCANDALS

#### Lakhubhai Pathak case: Rao named

**F**ORMER Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao quit as Congress President on September 21, 1996, after a Delhi court named him a co-accused in the Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case and asked him to appear before it on September 30 for framing of charges. However, he did not give up his position as leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party or as the Member of Parliament. Following these developments, veteran Congress leader, Mr Sitaram Kesri, was elected provisional President of the Indian National Congress. Earlier he was the treasurer of the party.

Fearing arrest in the case, Mr Rao applied for anticipatory bail. However, he suffered a setback when his bail plea was rejected on September 26. The judge observed that an anticipatory bail plea could only be entertained in cases where non-bailable arrest warrants had been issued by the trial court. The court had also pointed out that in case the petitioner is arrested on his appearance before the trial court on September 30, he would be free to move a regular bail application.

However, Narasimha Rao got a reprieve again on September 30, when the court exempted him from personal appearance. This came about due to an appeal filed by the Delhi police, seeking change of venue from the Tis Hazari court complex to a more suitable place from the security angle.

#### St Kitts forgery case

**T**HE legal process seemed to close in on Mr Rao again when on September 26, 1996, the CBI filed a chargesheet against Mr Rao naming him in the St Kitts forgery case. The chargesheet was filed in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prem Kumar. The First Information Report in the case had been registered six years ago.

On October 5, a Delhi court issued a

## Recent Economic News

### RBI's Annual Report

The Reserve Bank of India put forward its annual report for 1995-96 on September 13, 1996. The report has suggested that the estimated growth rate of the Indian economy at 5.5 per cent would not be achieved without accelerating agricultural growth beyond the previous year's growth rate of 2.4 per cent.

The report also expressed concern at the decline in per capita availability of foodgrains per day and of pulses in particular.

The report has made the following observations about various sectors:

**Debt:** The government has been warned against walking into an internal debt trap. The report points out that the government's high level of borrowing, its rising interest cost and increasing monetisation of the fiscal deficit could all lead to a debt trap. It has suggested that a legislative ceiling on public debt be imposed and a consolidation sinking fund be set up, along with termination of ad hoc treasury bills. Also, the government should do away with the budget deficit concept.

**Agriculture:** Agriculture and allied activities recorded a growth of 2.4 per cent in 1995-96. This was lower than 4.9 per cent achieved in the previous year. The RBI has urged the State governments and the private sector to shoulder the responsibility for increasing agricultural sector's productivity. The RBI even pointed out that public investment for rural development may not be as much as warranted, even though the Central Budget for 1996-97 has allocated higher outlays for agriculture, rural development and irrigation and raised the capital base of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

**GDP:** As far as the overall growth in terms of the GDP is concerned the RBI has said that the real GDP growth in 1996-97, according to the Central Statistical Organisation's latest estimates, would probably be about 6.6 per cent.

**Forex Reserves:** The RBI expects that the sudden flush of foreign direct and portfolio investments in the current year would help tide over the repayment of \$ 2.2 billion under the Indian Development Bond, repayments to the International Monetary Fund of a little less than \$ 1 billion and withdrawals under the FCNRA scheme of around \$ 3.5 billion. The performance in the current financial year so far, up to August 2, 1996, has been encouraging in that foreign currency assets of the RBI have increased by little over \$ 900 million after a liquidation of liabilities by over \$ 1.5 billion under the FCNRA, the IMF and forward exchange commitments. The RBI has also pointed out that the macroeconomic balance, going by present indications, show that with a rate of domestic savings, at around 24 per cent of GDP, an Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR) of 4 per cent and an external current account deficit of 2 per cent of GDP, the economy could grow by 6.5 per cent.

**Exports-Imports:** The report points out that the Centre's liberalisation moves on the export-import seem to have failed to drive the market forces in favour of the country's external resources position. The trade deficit in 1995-96 nearly doubled to \$ 4,539 million as compared with \$ 2324 million in 1994-95, basically because of a sharp surge in imports. Imports grew by 30 per cent, exports grew by 20.9 per cent. The current account deficit for the year 1995-96 is estimated at \$ 5,487 million, 1.7 per cent of GDP in 1995-96. The current account deficit was a mere 0.9 per cent of GDP in 1994-95.

### Other Sectors

- The industrial sector grew by 13.1 per cent in 1995-96. The manufacturing sector registered an impressive growth of 13.7 per cent as against 9.8 per cent in 1994-95.
- Basic goods and capital goods recorded a growth of 8.6 per cent and 19.4 per cent, in 1995-96 against 5.5 per cent and 24.8 per cent in 1994-95.
- Consumer goods—a growth of 12.8 per cent in 1995-96 (8.7 per cent in 1994-95).
- Mining and Quarrying registered a growth of 6.9 per cent in 1995-96 (4.2 per cent in the previous year).
- Electricity, gas and water supply recorded an increase of 6.1 per cent in 1995-96, against 3.5 per cent in 1994-95.
- Total foodgrains output in 1995-96 is likely to be a little lower at 190.4 million tonnes (mt) compared with the previous peak level of 191.1.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

non-bailable arrest warrant against Mr Rao for his alleged role in the St Kitts case. This was a major setback to Rao. Within an hour of the issue of the warrants, Mr Rao moved the Delhi High Court with an anticipatory bail plea and obtained a stay till October 7.

Earlier, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Additional Sessions Judge Prem Kumar also issued warrants against then Minister of State for External Affairs K.K. Tewari, former Director of Enforcement K.L. Verma and Larry J. Kolb, a US national and son-in-law of international arms dealer Aduan Khashoggi, asking the CBI to produce the accused in the court by October 14, 1996.

The drama in St Kitts case began in 1988 with the hatching of a conspiracy to tarnish V.P. Singh who was gunning for Rajiv Gandhi over Bofors. On September 16, 1988, Mr George McLean, a Canadian national, at the instance of Chandraswami, opened a bogus account for \$21 million in the name of Ajeya Singh, V.P. Singh's son, in the First Trust Corporation Ltd (FTCL) in the Caribbean island of St Kitts, by forging the signatures of Ajeya Singh. The account was closed on February 13, 1989.

In August 1989, a Kuwaiti daily, *Arab Times*, and the Calcutta based *The Telegraph* ran a story alleging that V.P. Singh, as Finance Minister in 1986-87, made six substantial deposits totalling \$21 million in the FTCL, in his son's name. On September 27, 1989 the Finance Ministry deputy director of enforcement and an officer to UK, USA and St Kitts together forged "evidence".

Mr Narasimha Rao, was External Affairs Minister then, was in USA from September 25 to October 5, 1989 to attend UN session. It is alleged that Mr Rao got the forged documents on Ajeya Singh's account authenticated from consul-general Mr R.K. Roy in the presence of Chandraswami and his aide Mamaji.

In November 1989, V.P. Singh, as

Prime Minister, ordered CBI inquiry into the episode. After investigation the team found that Ajeya Singh's signatures were forged and a formal FIR was lodged on May 25, 1990.

However, after only a few months, V.P. Singh's government resigned and the subsequent governments put the case in cold storage. Till January, 1996, there was no progress. On February 10, 1996, the People's Union for Civil Liberties filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking the disclosure of the CBI findings. In March, 1996, CBI maintained that they did not have enough substantive evidence against Mr Rao. On July 26, the apex court ordered CBI not to close probe against Mr Rao. Earlier in March the CBI had claimed that the role of Mr Rao was limited to attestation of documents only. CBI then sought legal opinion and a Bombay-based leading criminal lawyer recommended that Mr Rao be prosecuted. This led to the chargesheet being finally filed in September, 1996.

### Satish Sharma held guilty of abuse of Power

THE Supreme Court has held the former Petroleum Minister, Captain Satish Sharma, guilty of misuse of discretionary power in the *mala fide* allotment of 15 petrol pumps to VIPs and their relatives. The court also ordered him to reply why he should not be prosecuted for criminal breach of trust.

Besides quashing the minister's orders allotting petrol pumps to the 15 persons, the court also said that those who had commissioned the pumps and were running the same would have to stop operating them with effect from October 31, 1996. The government and the oil companies shall take over the pump premises within 10 days after that.

### Bofors Sandal

ON September 11, 1996, the Swiss Cantonal court at Geneva rejected two appeals challenging the release of crucial

documents in the case to India. This would imply that the Bofors case at the Swiss end will come to a logical conclusion, making it possible for the early release of the documents to India.

These documents include details of beneficiaries, bank entries and other transactions in the Swiss Bank accounts of individuals believed to have been involved in the deal. The seven accused include the three Hinduja brothers—G.P. Hinduja, S.P. Hinduja and Prakash Hinduja—and Octavio Quadrocci, Win Chadha and two companies—Sevenska Inc and Jubilee Finance Inc.

It was in 1987 when the Bofors scandal first came to light and it is now almost six years since the CBI filed the FIR in the case in 1990. On July, 1993 the names of the seven accused were made public. After two years, on July 12, 1995, the examining Swiss magistrate had ordered the transmission of the Bofors documents to India.

On April 16, 1996, the Federal Court (highest Swiss Court) had stated that the documents be released to Indian authorities since the guarantees provided to the seven accused in the case were adequate to protect their "human rights". This breakthrough in April came after an unusual delay of over two years of appeals made in the various Swiss Courts by the accused, who were alleged to have acted as middlemen in the Bofors case and into whose Swiss bank accounts the "kick-back" payments had reportedly been made.

### Former Union Minister implicated in Rs 5000 crore scam

A fact finding report that was submitted in the Delhi High Court on September 13, 1996, pointed out that the former Union Health Minister B. Shankaranand was directly involved in the Rs 5000 crore medical equipment import scam. The report stated that there was large

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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scale corruption and collusion in the way customs duties exemption certificates were granted by the Health Ministry and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to big hospitals, to import costly medical equipment, worth crores of rupees, free of any customs duty.

The court also said that Shankaranand's involvement "raised the level of corruption all around". The Bench further added that the report showed that the objective of the government schemes had remained only on paper and 90 per cent of the benefit had been taken by the commercial hospitals, fly-by-night operators and a well-established circuit of brokers.

The Customs Department had been involved so deeply that its officers had even tried to block the inquiry ordered by the High Court.

#### Bihar Fodder case: HC indicts CBI

ON October 4, 1996, the Patna High Court came down heavily on the CBI for drastically altering its Joint Director U N. Biswas's report on the fodder scam. The names of the senior politicians, including Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, were deleted. "The entire thing amounts to contempt of court", said Judge S. Mukhopadhyaya.

Earlier, Mr Biswas had told the Court that the report submitted by the CBI was not the one which he had sent to his headquarters in Delhi. Instead, it was a version by DIG Ranjit Sinha which had a covering letter with his (Biswas's) signature, he said.

The court has further ordered that a three-member team headed by Mr Biswas, would henceforth directly report to the Court.

### GUJARAT

#### President's rule imposed despite protests by BJP

PRESIDENT rule was imposed in Gujarat on September 19, 1996, follow-

### Recent Economic News

#### We return more than we borrow!

The annual World Bank Report for 1995-96 (July 1 to June 30), released in Washington on September 25, 1996, has pointed out that India was the second largest borrower from the World Bank with approved loans of \$ 2.08 billion, after China with \$ 2.49 billion. However, the net transfer of Bank funds to India turned out to be negative to the tune of \$ 723 million as a large amount went into repayments and interest charges for previous loans. Against the disbursement, India paid the Bank \$ 1 149 billion as repayment and \$ 884 million as interest charges.

The report has called for significant policy reforms in the Indian financial sector, especially the regulations on contractual saving institutions. The development of a domestic long-term debt, the report says, requires major policy reforms. Lack of these has resulted in chronic underinvestment in infrastructure.

It has been pointed out that the public sector alone doesn't have the resources to meet the needs of the sector. The necessary finance terms, for the private sector to be able to operate in infrastructure, need to be set up.

Stating that the growth is estimated to be around six per cent, the report has stressed on the need for faster reforms.

ing the dismissal of the 11-month old Bharatiya Janata Party government led by Suresh Mehta. This was done under Article 356 of the Constitution after an emergency meeting by the Union Cabinet. The State Assembly has been kept in suspended animation.

Earlier, on September 18, the BJP government had managed to "win" confidence vote after suspending the entire Opposition from the House. The government decision to rush through the formality of winning the confidence vote unleashed violence in the legislature.

Four reasons were given, justifying the Centre's decision to impose President's rule in the State following defections during the past few weeks.

(a) Violence unleashed by warring BJP factions seeking to settle the issue both in and outside the assembly.

(b) Fear of horse trading. Faction leaders and their supporters had started holding tempting offers to MLAs willing to switch sides.

(c) Total 'paralysis' of the administration. Government machinery had come to a standstill in the wake of the political crisis.

(d) Uncertainty about the ability of warring factions to demonstrate majority.

Characterising the imposition of President's rule as "a murder of democracy", the BJP vowed to "fight it out" through nationwide protests. The party also said that there was a conspiracy to install a non-BJP government by engineering defections. With this motive in mind the Assembly was not dissolved but put in suspended animation.

### ARUNACHAL PRADESH

#### Chief Minister quits; forms government after floating a new party

REACTING to the Congress High Command's "interference" in the State, the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Gegong Apang resigned on September 20, 1996, floated a new party and staked his claim to form a new government. He was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on September 21 as leader of the new party. The Speaker Tako Dabi recognised Apang's new party and said that the breakaway group had the majority support in a 60-member House.

Apart from 41 members belonging to the 'Arunachal Congress', Apang has

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## JAMMU & KASHMIR

(Also see Special Feature on P. 303)

## RESERVATION

### Women's Quota Bill

The 81st amendment, providing reservation for women, was taken up for discussion and voting soon after the Finance Bill was disposed of. However, this move suffered a setback on September 13 when the Lok Sabha agreed to refer the Amendment to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. The select committee will deliberate the issue in depth. It will submit its report by the first day of the winter session of the Parliament.

## 1984 RIOTS

### First death sentence passed

The judge also sentenced 89 persons to five years' RI and a Rs 5000 fine each

# THE REPORT FORGERS: BACK TO STOWAY

The report has also indicated that the high degrees of poverty and unemployment resources of the country are not being utilized in the context of the present situation. It is suggested that the government should take steps to improve the situation and to provide employment opportunities for the unemployed.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

for their role in the riots.

### PLANNING

#### Attracting Foreign Direct Investment

PRIME Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has announced certain "radical" steps to boost the confidence of foreign investors to ensure an annual inflow of US \$ 10 billion as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

He said that State governments would soon be empowered to approve power projects upto Rs 1000 crore at their level. Some of the basic liberal steps mentioned by him include, giving greater autonomy to State governments to attract and improve foreign projects, easing procedures for acquiring land for infrastructure projects so that there is no unnecessary hardship to the investors and decreasing government controls on foreign investment.

The government is in the process of rationalising and expanding the list of priority industries for automatic FDI approval. These would be in sectors like infrastructure, export-oriented activities and agro-based units. Indian subsidiaries would also be encouraged for use as an export platform. The newly established Foreign Investment Promotion Council, comprising private sector and government representatives, will mount sectoral and project-specific promotional efforts to attract FDI.

#### Plan to remove 2 m children from hazardous occupations

APPROXIMATELY 1,50,000 children have so far been removed from hazardous occupations and diverted to special schools under the programme for elimination of child labour, that was launched on Independence Day in 1994. A total of 76 national child labour projects were sanctioned for these children in child

#### ONGC profit falls

The profit of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has fallen to Rs 1046 crore during 1995-96, from Rs 2345 crore in 1994-95 and the fall is expected to continue during the current fiscal year. Crude production is also expected to fall by 3.5 million tonnes during the current year following the implementation of technology measures at many of the ONGC fields.

ONGC has produced 2.65 million tonnes of crude during 1995-96, which is almost eight per cent higher than the previous year. The company's production reached an all time high of 17 billion standard cubic metres, which was an increase of 21 per cent over 1994-95.

labour endemic States like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Allocations for the programmes for elimination of child labour in 1995-96 and 1996-97 have been Rs 90 crore.

The national authority for elimination of child labour adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, release and rehabilitation of child labour". This plan requires the range of actions required to be taken to tackle the child labour problem, especially in hazardous occupations.

In special schools, these children are being provided non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care and stipends. These special schools are being run by voluntary agencies as well as project societies established at the district level for the purpose.

According to the national child labour policy 1987, the problem of child labour is being tackled through legislation, general development programmes for the benefit of children and implementation of the national child labour projects.

### BUDGET

#### Sops to revive the sentiment

THE Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has offered encouraging incentives to

various sectors of the economy. On September 6, he announced an exemption upto Rs 3000 for all income-tax payers investing in unit shares and mutual funds as part of the measures to "perk up the market sentiment and woo the small investors". He also explained that he proposed to revert to a two-part system of Rs 12000 and Rs 3000 under Section 80 (L) of the Income Tax Act. He also announced certain tax concessions for capital gains under Section 54 (E) (a) as notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Later, on September 11, while introducing the Finance Bill 1996-97 in the Lok Sabha, Mr Chidambaram also announced several exemptions in direct and indirect taxes. He exempted sick industries and units in backward areas from the purview of the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT). Changes in indirect taxes are aimed at boosting production of domestic steel, computer and colour T.V. It is also supposed to help rayon-grade pulp industries and small paper mills.

The Finance Minister justified the levy of MAT and resisted pressures to withdraw it. He explained that in spite of this levy, corporates would only pay an effective rate of corporate tax not exceeding 19 to 20 per cent as against an individual paying over 40 per cent tax under the income tax slabs.



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## INTERNATIONAL

### AFGHANISTAN

#### Taliban enters Kabul

ON September 27, 1996, the Taliban militia captured Kabul and hanged the former President Najibullah. The Taliban also announced the establishment of a six-member interim government to run the country according to Islamic rules. President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar fled the city.

Najibullah had been taking shelter at the UN office in the city since April 1992, when rebels ousted the Soviet-backed communist government after a 14-year war. He was dragged to a street and hanged from a lamp post in the centre of the town. Najibullah's brother Shahpur Ahmedzi, who had been his security chief during the six years of his communist government, was also hanged. The Taliban entered the city, backed by tanks and armoured vehicles. They took control of Kabul without any resistance from government troops.

Taliban announced that it would enforce a "complete and pure Islamic system in Afghanistan".

Afghanistan has been long torn by bloodshed. After the Soviet forces began to land in Kabul in December 1979, Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin was killed. Then, Babrak Kamal became Prime Minister. In 1986, Najibullah became President and the Soviet forces withdrew in 1989. In April, 1992, Najibullah stepped down as the Mujahedin closed in. In May, a peace agreement providing withdrawal of forces from Kabul was signed and a neutral zone was established. In late 1994, Taliban took possession of Kandahar and in February Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hizb-i-Islami was routed by Taliban in Kabul. In May, 1995 President Rabbani regained possession of Kabul. On September 27, 1996, Taliban set up a six-member ruling council, with Mullah Mohammad Rabbani as its head, immediately after capturing

Kabul.

The fall of Burhanuddin Rabbani government is seen as a blow to Indian interests. Even Iran is worried as Iran is predominantly Shia and the Taliban belongs to Sunni sect. For Pakistan, the Taliban victory has brought it a step closer to the realisation of a dream—its grand design of establishing a Pan-Islamic State in the region. -

Fearful that the victory of Taliban militants could lead to growing pressure on former Soviet Central Asian States, Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin, called a regional summit meeting to discuss common defence. Russian Security Chief Alexander Lebed said that "developments in Afghanistan may have serious consequences for Russia's security". Some of the Taliban leaders have said that their goal is not merely to subdue Afghanistan and place it under the *Sharia* or Islamic law, but to spread their influence across central Asia. They lay claim to the ancient Islamic Centre of Bukhara, now located in Uzbekistan, and other former Soviet territories.

Since the fall of USSR, Russia has maintained troops in Tajikistan—which borders Afghanistan—to support a pro-Moscow government and hold back what is perceived as a tide of Islamic fundamentalist militancy.

Gen Lebed has advocated full support of Moscow—military and financial—to the beleaguered Afghan government of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, as well as to warlords Ahmad Shah Masaud and General Rashid Dostum, who hold northern Afghan territories.

### BOSNIA

#### Unfair Elections

AN independent group of monitors said on September 16, 1996, that Bosnian general elections held on September 14-15 were not free, fair or democratic. The International Crisis Group (ICG),

headed by former US Congressman George Mitchell, said that against a background of adverse conditions, electoral engineering and disenfranchisement, the elections can't be described as fair, free or democratic.

The group pointed out various errors in the entire process. First, due to technical errors in the registration of voters living abroad, as many as 200,000 people were left out of the vote. Second, on the election day the vast majority of the 150,000 displaced people in the Muslim Croat Federation, entitled to vote in the Bosnian Serb Republic (RS), did not do so. Thousands of Serbs were brought to the RS from neighbouring Serb-led Yugoslavia and were instructed to vote or threatened with loss of refugee status and benefits.

The elections have confirmed the division of Bosnia into Muslim, Serb and Croat ethnic communities. For the Federal Presidency, which is a three-person collective one, Alija Izetbegovic, the current Muslim President of Bosnia, led with 729,034 votes followed by Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb Nationalist, with 690,373 votes and Croat leader Kresimir Zubak with 342,007 votes. These votes reflect the same proportion as the strengths of the three ethnic groups. While Izetbegovic will be the President along with the other two, each of them will have a veto on the collective decisions of the presidency.

Certain doubts have been raised about the governance of power in the country. Many people ask how peace is expected when Bosnia is ruled by the same people who had propelled the country to war. Moreover, they ask, how can power be shared by a Muslim who fought for Bosnian unity, a Serb ultranationalist who fought against it and a Croat who acts largely on what is right for Bosnia's Croat majority?

Some commentators have also pointed out that the problem of holding polls in Bosnia under the supervision of 60,000 heavily armed NATO forces has made the

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

Americans and westerners have a better appreciation of the problem of holding elections in Kashmir, India, where unlike in Bosnia, transborder export of terrorism has not stopped.

### MIDDLE-EAST

#### Israel-PLO peace talks fail

ON September 5, 1996, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held their first ever summit since the Israeli elections in May. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held on September 3, but got delayed due to a dispute over the wording of an Israeli-PLO written commitment to the Oslo peace agreement. Three days of talks failed to fix a summit date between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and finally an hour-long talk was held on September 5.

There had been problems on both sides before holding of the talks. The Palestinians were seeking a clear commitment from Netanyahu to implement all outstanding issues in Israel-PLO peace deals, such as Israeli troop re-deployment from Hebron and other parts of the West Bank. Israel had accused Palestinians of putting pressure on them. For Arafat, a meeting with Netanyahu was important because he risked his political life on the peace

deal, which Palestinians say has not delivered results. However, meeting Arafat posed a dilemma for Netanyahu, who was caught between the Right-wing constituency that elected him and Arab and international pressure to advance peace moves.

In the meeting both the sides decided to set up a steering committee to sort out the vexed Jewish settlements issue and redeployment of Israeli troops from Hebron. The meeting was seen as the renewal of bilateral resolves to bury the differences between the two sides.

Later, on September 10, West Asia peace talks suffered a setback as the meeting between US President Bill Clinton and Netanyahu failed to attain a consensus to resume the peace talks. Netanyahu refused to accept the land-for-peace proposition which implied withdrawal from the Golan Heights, peace with Syria and withdrawal of Israeli troops from Hebron as had been agreed upon by the former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Arafat.

Apparently, Netanyahu resisted US calls to pull out from Hebron, arguing that such a step could create an "explosive" situation in Hebron and damage the entire West Asia peace process. He later said that the USA understood their position.

**Riots in West Bank: Defying World Opinion,** Israel opened a tourist tunnel, which runs along the Al Aqsa mosque

compound, Islam's third holiest shrine, on September 26, 1996. The opening triggered stone throwing clashes and gun battles between Palestinians and Israeli troops that left 72 people dead.

Palestinians feel that the passage undermines their control over the Muslim shrines and their claims to east Jerusalem as a future capital. Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel said that the tunnel does not endanger the shrines and is 250 metres from the nearest mosque.

Following the escalated tension USA offered to host a summit meeting of Israeli, Palestinian and other Arab leaders. The talks were held on October 2-3, but ended largely in failure. However, the involved parties agreed that they will continue to talk till they resolve the issues.

### PAKISTAN

#### Murtaza Bhutto killed in police firing

PAKISTANI politics plunged into yet another crisis when Murtaza Bhutto, the estranged brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, along with his six aides, was killed in a gun battle with the police in Karachi on September 20, 1996.

Among the others who died in the shoot out were Aashiq Jatoi, a cousin of a former Prime Minister Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and the provincial chief of breakaway Pakistan People's Party (Shaheed) headed by Murtaza Bhutto.

Police had formally charged Murtaza Bhutto and his supporters of assaulting policemen and ransacking two police stations after one of his key supporters, Ali Sonara was arrested. Murtaza Bhutto was also the focus of a police investigation into two bomb blasts in Karachi but he denied the charge, instead accusing his sister's government of carrying out the blasts.

The police has blamed the aides of Murtaza Bhutto for the shoot-out which, they said, occurred when Mr Bhutto's

#### Micro-credit Summit

A conglomeration of many small and large banking and other organisations like the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh and the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) of India, had a two-day meeting in Washington on September 20-21, 1996. The Micro-credit summit was focussed to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families by the year 2005. Four million of the targetted families will be in industrial countries like the US where, according to data provided, 40 to 80 per cent of the clients of microenterprise programmes live below the poverty line. US President, Bill Clinton has, in fact, been instrumental in giving a fillip to micro-credit enterprise by adopting Grameen Bank as a model for pilots in his State of Arkansas.

The summit has estimated that about \$ 21.6 billion will be needed to achieve the goal of reaching 100 million families. However, this amount is still small in relation to total official development aid, total private sector donations and social investments and total resource flows of financial institutions.

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## INTERNATIONAL

motorcade failed to stop for security check at a post.

Murtaza Bhutto had returned in 1993 from exile in Syria and was campaigning to overthrow his sister's government.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto ordered an enquiry into the killing and also said that there was a conspiracy behind the murder. She said it had been planned to plunge the nation into a crisis.

Murtaza is the third member of the Bhutto family to die a violent death after his father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, overthrown in a military coup in 1977, and his younger brother Shahnawaz, who died under mysterious circumstances in Cannes in 1985.

**Massacre in Multan:** Sectarian violence continues in Pakistan and the government seems to be fast losing control over rival militant groups. On September 24, 1996, twenty one Sunni worshippers were massacred, in a mosque in Multan, by Shia militants in retaliation of killing of their leader by Sunni militants. The incident has resulted in Pakistan being gripped in an environment of tension.

### Violence in NWFP

FIVE days of sectarian clashes in the Parachinar area of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), in the second week of September, resulted in the death of over 200 people in the Shia-Sunni clashes. Sophisticated weapons were used in the clashes.

Tension between Shia and Sunni communities had been brewing up since August. The immediate provocation came when a student in high school in Parachinar wrote some remarks against the Shias on the blackboard. This drew reactions from the Shia classmates. In the violence that followed the incident, the school principal was killed.

### President Proposes amendments to combat corruption

PAKISTANI President Farooq Ahmed Leghari has proposed important amendments to two existing laws to combat corruption and effectively depoliticise the accountability process in the country.

The five-point proposal, sent to the speaker of the national assembly and chair-

man of the senate, envisages that advisors, special assistants and all public servants holding top posts be included in the scope of laws which now cover the President, Prime Minister, ministers, governors, chief ministers and members of national and provincial assemblies. He has also proposed that ombudsman (Wafaqi Mohtasib) be empowered to investigate, refer and prosecute all cases before the special corruption courts. There is also a suggestion to provide for a ban for seven years on holding any public office on a person found guilty of corrupt practices.

## SRI LANKA

### Troops capture Killinochchi

SRI Lankan government troops achieved another major success on September 29, 1996, in their war against LTTE when they captured the strategic Killinochchi town. Over 600 Tamil rebels and 200 government troops were killed in the fighting which was perhaps one of the bloodiest battles fought in the 13-year-old Sri Lankan civil war.

Although the rebels used human wave tactics, they were unable to penetrate the defences in the face of heavy artillery and mortar attacks by the troops. Some rebels, however, managed to penetrate the western defences killing troops. The rebels also used a number of suicide bombers who exploded themselves in proximity to troops when fired upon.

More than the town, which was till the other day the headquarters of the LTTE, since the fall of Jaffna on December 5, 1995, the successful operation *Sath Jaya* (True Victory) Phase-3 was targeted to open the main supply route along the Jaffna-Kandy road, between the army camp at Elephant Pass and Vavuniya town.

With the loss of Killinochchi, the LTTE is now bereft of any major urban base in the Northern Province, except Mullaitivu.

### India ninth most corrupt nation

An independent global survey of businessmen, conducted by the anti-corruption crusaders, Transparency International, has termed India as the ninth most corrupt country in the world.

According to the survey, which reviewed 54 economies, India's political and business establishments are marginally better than those in Nigeria (1), Pakistan (2), Bangladesh (3), China (5) and Russia (8).

The survey report says that corruption is rampant throughout the Third World, with most of the countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America figuring on top of the list.

Analysing the trends in worldwide corruption, the survey rejected the theory that corruption thrives because of favourable cultural traits. It pointed out that bribery has "no basis for ethical or legal support in any society" and instead finds the political and the legal systems responsible for it.

New Zealand ranked first among the "clean" countries, closely followed by the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Sweden, and Finland. Among the countries perceived as more immune to corruption are Canada (4), Australia (10), Britain (12), Germany (13), US (15), and Japan (17).

Expectedly, among the Asian countries, the sparsely populated Singapore ranking seventh and Hong Kong the 18th, figure in the list of States relatively free of corruption.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

#### NUCLEAR ARMS

##### CTBT Treaty signed by USA, others

**E**VEN as India, Libya and Bhutan voted against the CTBT document in the UN General Assembly, USA and other declared nuclear powers signed the treaty on September 24, 1996. Among the first ones to sign included Russia, France, Britain and China.

Earlier, on September 12, the CTBT was approved by a massive 158-3 vote while five countries abstained. Several other countries couldn't vote because of technicalities like unpaid dues etc. India voted against the treaty, insisting that it was both flawed as well as discriminatory. One of the reasons proffered by India for not signing the treaty is the security concerns arising out of the nuclear capability of China and Pakistan. Pakistan, which had, a few days ago expressed its unwillingness to sign the treaty voted in favour but said it would sign only when India did. China declared that the treaty would be one step forward to the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT resolution was introduced in the General Assembly by Australia. Although many countries expressed their willingness and then signed the treaty, it requires the mandatory signatures of 44 nuclear capable countries, including India, to take effect. The USA, however, stated that it was committed to implementing the CTBT despite India and a few other countries resisting it. The USA also declared that they could find a way for the Indians to have their security concerns met. In fact, the USA is planning to mount a new campaign to find ways of addressing India's concerns and persuade it to sign the treaty. The USA also warned India and other opposing countries against conducting nuclear tests as it would defy the will of the international community and the great powers of the world.

The CTBT provisions comprise those on verifications, inspections, organisation and timing. Verifications imply that an international monitoring system would be set up to check treaty violations. Second, any country would be able to request an inspection to see whether an explosion had been carried out. Such requests could be based on information collected by the international monitoring system or through surveillance but not through spying activities. Third, the seat of the CTBT organisation would be in Vienna, Austria. Fourth, the treaty would enter into force 180 days after it is ratified by the 44 countries that have nuclear power or nuclear research reactors on their soil.

The signing of the CTBT by the US and others is seen as a farce by many. For the first time, a treaty has been signed by world leaders with full knowledge that it will not come into force in its present form because India will not sign and ratify the present text of the treaty. The signatories can now claim that they have fulfilled their commitment of signing a CTBT and that its non-entry into force is due to a party which is not a part of the Non Proliferation Treaty. They, thus, achieve the dual purpose of showing their commitment to their promise as well as ensure that a CTBT is not enforced. It is quite possible that at the end of three years, when the conference to review the progress of the treaty is convened, there could be an amendment to Article 14 dropping India from the list and thereby the treaty could be brought into force.

#### RUSSIA-USA

##### Anti-Missile Pact

**T**HE United States and Russia have approved the first phase of a new agreement on anti-missile systems and called for negotiations on the second phase to start sometime in October end.

US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had, in 1995, asked negotiators to work out which sys-

tems were strategic, and hence limited by the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty, and which smaller-scale theatre systems were not limited.

The phase one agreement specifies that all theatre missile defence systems with interceptor speeds of upto three km per second (1.8 miles per second) are permitted under the ABM treaty, unless they are tested against targets with speeds over five km per second (3.1 miles per second) or ranges greater than 3500 km (2174 miles).

#### NEPAL

##### Mahakali treaty with India ratified

**O**N September 20, 1996, the anti-India forces in Nepal got a jolt when the Mahakali treaty was ratified by an overwhelming majority. The ratification gave a fresh lease of life to the Deuba government. The ratification was made possible following a consensus with the main opposition party, the United Marxist Leninist (UML) Party.

The treaty needed two-third majority to be passed and there was no way to ensure ratification without support of the UML. The ratification has established international credibility of the Nepalese government and the communists. It also gave a fresh lease of life to the Deuba government. Rejection could have led to a mid-term poll.

UML had earlier blocked the passage of the treaty till certain rectifications were made. The treaty was signed on February 12, 1996. It provides for a 6400 MW Pancheswar hydel project to be set up jointly at a cost of Rs 20,000 crore, on an equal sharing basis.

#### PHILIPPINES

##### Peace agreement between government and rebels

**P**HILIPPINES' worst insurgency was brought to an end on September 2,

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

1996, when the Ramos government and the rebels signed a peace agreement. The 26-year insurgency had resulted in the death of over 120,000 people.

As per the pact, the rebels agreed to accept increased autonomy in Muslim areas in the southern Philippines, instead of their original demand for a separate Muslim State. The MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) will control a new peace council that will oversee economic development projects in 14 southern provinces for three years. Then, in 1999, a plebiscite will be held to determine which of the provinces wish to join a new autonomous government. As regarding the MNLF's 17000 guerrillas, about 5750 rebel fighters will join the Philippine armed forces and 1750 others will join the national police. Other rebels would become civil servants.

The pact is considered a major achievement for President Fidel Ramos who had desired to settle three insurgencies by Muslim rebels, Communists and Right-wing soldiers that have destabilized the nation and impaired its economy. Although two smaller Muslim rebel groups still reject the peace pact, the acceptance by the MNLF means that Ramos' administration has now largely settled two of the three rebellions.

### USA

#### Three convicted in plot to bomb US airliners

ON September 6, 1996, three radical Muslims were convicted of plotting to plant bombs in a dozen US jets and killing thousands of passengers to punish the United States for supporting Israel. Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the plot, and the two other defendants Abdul Hakim Murad and Wali Khan Amin Shah will face mandatory sentences of life in prison. Yousef is also accused of plotting the World Trade Centre Bombing.

The trial had started in May. The de-

cision of the jury is meant to send a message that no terrorist can hide from US justice. Yousef was named as the architect of a scheme to kill about 4000 passengers over a two-day period as they returned on Delta, Northwest and united flights to the United States from the Far East. He was also convicted of placing a bomb on a Philippine airlines flight to Tokyo on December 11, 1994, as a trial run. The bomb had exploded under the seat of a Japanese passenger, killing him and injuring 10 other people. The US government, it seems, plans to try Yousef next year on charges stemming from the World Trade Centre bombing, which killed six persons and injured more than 1000 people.

### SAARC

#### Pledge to banish child labour by 2010

A T a recently held ministerial conference on children of South Asia, the SAARC nations pledged to eliminate child labour from the region by the year 2010 and launch a nutrition drive in South Asia. The seven nations—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives—also committed themselves to combating inter- and intra-country trafficking in children. They also discussed about assisting victims of violence due to prostitution and sexual exploitation. It was also resolved that social support systems at the community level would be established for children, particularly those with special needs for example, the girl child, the working child, the refugee and the internally displaced child, the child in conflict with law and others falling in this category.

The three-day conference, held in Rawalpindi, was inaugurated by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Indian delegation was led by Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism Minister Srikant Kumar Jena. The 'Rawalpindi resolution', as it was

named, adopted at the end of the conference, noted that there was widespread malnutrition in children, especially amongst those under two years of age. This, the resolution said, was linked not only to poverty but also to inappropriate child caring practices and infections.

The nations said that in order to change the prevalent attitude, not only an integrated plan with greater emphasis on gender equality in various socio-economic development programmes was required, but also an organised campaign for generating awareness. In this context, an alliance for children, built around the SAARC concept of "government-community partnership", could help in providing a conducive environment for child development.

### RUSSIA

#### Yeltsin gives charge to PM

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin, preparing for heart surgery, gave Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin partial control of several key ministries on September 10, 1996. However, he has kept the nuclear "red button" under his own control.

In the first week of September, President Yeltsin had announced that he would be undergoing heart surgery. He is likely to have a by-pass operation. The operation is a routine for those suffering from the Ischaemic disease.

Under Russian law, a number of senior ministers, including those in charge of defence, interior, foreign affairs, counter-intelligence and federal security, report directly to the President rather than to the Prime Minister. Now they would be coordinating with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for all questions regarding issues that require a decision by the head of the State.

Meanwhile, pressure is growing on Mr Yeltsin to resign so that fresh elections could be held and a new President elected.

# Current General Knowledge

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ATM:** Automatic Teller Machine.

**AVL:** Automatic Vehicle Location.

**FIPB:** Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

**GPS:** Global Positioning System.

**IRA:** Insurance Regulatory Authority.

**NSC:** National Security Council.

**PBS:** Public Broadcasting System.

**UAV:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

## AWARDS

### B.D. Goenka Award 1995

**P**RANNOY Roy and Vinod Dua, chosen as a team, will be the first TV personalities to receive the B.D. Goenka Award for excellence in Journalism. Behram Contractor, the celebrated Busybee columnist of Mumbai, is the awardee for English.

Jehan Daruwala, editor of Bombay Samachar and Barun Sengupta, editor of Calcutta's Bartman, are also among the recipients.

### Gandhi Peace Prize 1996

**D**R Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne of Sri Lanka has been nominated for the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 1996. He was chosen for the prestigious international prize for social, economic and political transformation through non-violence.

The Award carries an amount of Rs 1 crore and a citation.

### Jannalal Bajaj Awards 1996

**I**NDUMATI Parikh of Mumbai, well known for her work in the area of family planning, has bagged the Jankidevi Bajaj Award.

The award for outstanding contribution in the field of constructive work has been given to Manubhai Pancholi of

Gujarat.

The recipient of the award for application of science and technology for rural development is S.S. Kalbag of Maharashtra.

The International award for promoting Gandhian values outside India has been given to lawyer Adolfo de Obeita of Buenos Aires in Argentina.

### JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award

**T**HE first JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award has been given to the late Aditya Vikram Birla

### K.K. Birla Awards 1995

**I**NDIA cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar and veteran handicapped athlete Ms Malathi K. Holla have been selected for the K.K. Birla foundation awards for sports for the year 1995.

Olympian woman athlete Shiny Wilson has been nominated for a special award. The awards carry a prize of Rs 75,000 each.

### Right Livelihood Award

**A**N Indian non-governmental organisation the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP) has won the 1996 Right Livelihood award, also known as the alternative Nobel Prize.

The Indian forum, along with two others, won the award jointly for their pioneering work in the fields of health, peace and development. The KSSP, founded in 1962, was rewarded for its work in the mass dissemination of science in Kerala.

The other recipients were Greek homoeopathist George Vithoulkas and the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia.

The \$ 2.50 lakh award (to be shared

by the recipients) will be presented on December 9, 1996 in the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag), the day before the Nobel Prize presentations.

## BOOKS

### Who is the Satan?

**I**RAN has published a book of criticism on Salman Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses', called 'Who is the Satan'? It tries to expose "anti-Islamic propaganda" in Rushdie's novel and to stop "spiteful nonsense" being spread about Islam. The book is written by Ahmad Zomorodian and published by an Islamic association in Iran's culture ministry. It seeks to portray Rushdie as a mercenary ignorant about Islam.

## CONFERENCE

### 'Destination India'

**O**VER 70 multinational companies from 28 countries and senior foreign government officials attended India's first State-hosted international investment summit 'Destination India' which began on September 10, 1996.

'Destination India' was the first promotional event to be organised by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce of India (FICCI).

## DEFENCE

### 'Vikrant' de-commissioned

**V**IKRANT, the ageing aircraft carrier, has finally been put to sleep in the docks of Bombay port. The Indian Navy is now handicapped with only one carrier policing the coastline. The government is yet to decide about a suitable replacement for Vikrant.

A household name after its exploits

in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, *Vikrant* was decommissioned after the government formally approved the process.

Built by the British and christened HMS Hercules in 1945, the ship, carrying aircraft on board, was selected by the Indian Navy. Redesigned for Indian needs, the renamed ship *Vikrant* joined the Navy in 1961.

The gentle giant became a popular name in 1971 when its guns and aircraft attacked enemy positions in Mangla, Khulna, Chittagong and Cox Bazar's ports. The ship, thus, fulfilled her assigned task without loss of any aircraft and wrote a glorious chapter in the history of Indian Navy operations.

Its partner INS *Virat* is also on the last leg of its service. The ship will be phased out after eight or nine years. While the government can start building an aircraft carrier at its Cochin dockyard to replace *Virat*, the Navy needs an immediate replacement for *Vikrant*.

## DISCOVERY

### Century's greatest archaeological find

**C**HINESE archaeologists have unearthed a previously unknown ancient civilisation, about 3,500 years old. This is the first discovery of ancient urban civilisation on this scale for more than a century.

Over 1,000 jade and bronze items, including some of the world's strangest sculptures, masks with eyes on stalks and heads with giant ears, have been found.

Archaeologists are stunned by the discovery and baffled as to the identity of the ancient people who created this glittering lost culture. Although the civilisation flourished in what is now western China, it does not appear to have been culturally or ethnically ancestral to modern mainstream Chinese culture. Instead, it could be related to either the Tibeto-Burman tribes or to the Pacific Polynesians who still inhabit parts of western China.

Details have been emerging only over the past decade following the discovery in 1986 and 1988, at Sanxingdui, in China's Sichuan province, of sacrificial pits filled

with jade and bronze treasures.

Most of the finds—bronze heads and statues, ritual equipment and jade treasures—have been unearthed inside a massive ceremonial walled city, covering almost a square mile.

The 3,600 to 3,100 years old city, with its residential districts and major public buildings, probably had a population of between 10,000 and 20,000 and boasted four miles of enormous defensive ramparts. The metropolis was not only the capital of a substantial kingdom, but was also an important centre of religious pilgrimage.

Archaeologists world-wide are now beginning to grapple with the mystery of the Chinese discovery and are searching for answers regarding the identity of the civilisation and its rulers.

## EXPEDITION

### Seismic station in Antarctica

**I**NDIA will establish a seismic observatory in Antarctica near its permanent station *Maitri* during its 16th expedition to the icy continent in the first week of December, 1996.

India will operate the broad band digital seismic observatory to monitor and study seismic activity in and around Antarctica, to determine hypocentres of earthquakes occurring throughout the world.

Presently, seven countries have seismic stations with digital broad band seismographs in Antarctica, which was considered till 1960 as an aseismic area (free from seismicity) but subsequent observations brought to light moderate seismicity of the continent.

The 16th Indian expedition team comprises 58 members including scientists from National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) near Hyderabad. It will be headed by Dr A.L. Koppar of the Indian Meteorological Department.

Geophysical investigations have been an integral part of India's research programme in Antarctica right from the initial stages. The initial investigations were confined to the ice-shelf region. After the commissioning of *Maitri*, helicopter-borne and helicopter-supported surveys have also been conducted over the glaciated region.

## PERSONS

### Ariyaratne, Ahangamage Tudor

**D**R Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne, 65, of Sri Lanka has been chosen for the Gandhi Peace Prize 1996 for his outstanding work in harnessing energies of rural people for development and his commitment and dedication to the cause of the poor during the last three-and-a-half decades.

A social scientist with a commitment to the Gandhian philosophy, Dr Ariyaratne founded the Sarvodaya Shramdan Movement in Sri Lanka in 1958. He was also drawn upon Buddhist thought and culture to carry forward the Gandhi legacy.

A recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1969, Dr Ariyaratne has been honoured with Niwano Peace Prize among others. He has several publications to his credit on philosophy, global peace, non-violence and education.

### Bhagwat, Vishnu

**A**DAMIRAL Vishnu Bhagwat, former Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, is the new Naval Chief of India.

Admiral Bhagwat succeeded Admiral V.S. Shekhawat who retired on September 30. He is recipient of *Ati Vishisht Seva Medal* and *Param Vishisht Seva Medal* for distinguished services of exceptionally high order.

## PLACES

### Madras is Chennai now

**W**ITH the Centre giving its go-ahead for renaming Madras city, the 300-year-old city became Chennai on October 1, 1996.

A gazette notification giving effect to the change in name was issued with effect from September 30.

The State government had passed a bill in the State legislature on August 31 providing for renaming the city as Chennai in all languages, instead of Madras or Madharas.

## RESEARCH

### Herbal Fuel

**A** high school dropout from Tamil Nadu created history when he turned



water into a petrol-like fuel by mixing it with a herb he had discovered in the hills.

Scientists who witnessed his demonstration have, however expressed doubts on the new discovery.

The discovery means that, given the herb, plain water can be converted into a fuel that can drive vehicles. Ramar Pillai, 30, who discovered the amazing herb seven years ago has been selling the fuel in his village near Rajapalayam.

## SPACE

### Astronauts as space age gastronomes

THE space shuttle Atlantis closed in on Mir on September 18, 1996 carrying food and provisions such as water and air for the sealed space station. Space travellers often complain that food tastes bland in weightlessness and the shuttle carried onions and garlic, along with other things.

Sometimes that leads to desperate measures: cosmonauts Valentin Lebedev and Anatoly Berezovoi gobbled up onions meant for research during their 211-day Salyut station mission in 1982. Some astronauts bring up hot sauce to splash on their meals.

The shuttle also picked up NASA astronaut Shannon Lucid, who spent a record-breaking six months aboard Mir and was replaced by John Blaha for a four-month stay in orbit.

### Hubble captures views of galaxy formation

THE Hubble space telescope has captured detailed images of 18 star groups that are merging in such a way and in such a small area that they will form a galaxy, one of the fundamental structural elements of the visible universe.

The star clusters, each with about a billion stars, are gathered in an area only about 2 million light years across. That is a densely packed crowd by celestial standards.

The images, photographed by the Hubble in a 24-hour-long exposure, are thought to be the earliest view ever of galaxy formation, thus shedding light on one of the enduring questions of

astronomy—about formation of galaxies.

Very little was known about the process because galaxy formation occurred billions of years ago and far beyond the view of most telescopes. Only now are the Hubble and some new ground instruments able to start answering questions about galaxy-forming process.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Indian Hinglish gains acceptance

THE latest edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD) with a special supplement section on Indian English gives legitimacy to words and phrases this country has appropriated over the years and made a part of its informal lexicon.

With the proliferation of Indo-Anglian writers and their apparent popularity and the fact that India is the single largest market of the Oxford dictionaries in the world, it was considered necessary to add a special section to the latest edition of the dictionary.

The supplement is compiled by Indira Chowdhury Sengupta and has more than 3,500 entries.

The dictionary is an effort to compile the Raj language as spoken in the subcontinent and would help a visitor to India understand the variegated idioms of Indian English. Academic institutions all over the world would find it easier to understand Indian English with the help of such a novel work of reference.

### AVL system for Bangalore cops

POLICE in Bangalore will acquire the country's first satellite controlled Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system to rush to a crime accident spot or to help persons badly in need of police assistance in less than 10 minutes.

Over 50 police vehicles, accident relief units, fire and ambulance vehicles would be fitted with the highly sophisticated and most modern 'Global Positioning System' (GPS) antennae—the most important gadget of the state-of-the-art AVL system.

The system uses GPS receivers to as-

sist in tracking and despatching vehicles which are moving very closer to the accident spot.

This system provides users the capacity to answer immediately to an emergency situation and gives law enforcement agencies an invaluable advantage in terms of time.

Experts in the area of medical emergencies, crimes, accidents and fires are of the view that each extra second gained represents an astronomical increase in possibilities of achieving positive results.

A digitised map is used in a central station displaying the real-time location of all or a subset of vehicles on multiple screens using an award winning Windows based AVL despatch software.

As the vehicles move, the computer's digital map, which is synchronised with the movement of the vehicle's position, automatically tracks it.

The most sophisticated system would also be used by the owners of expensive cars. These cars would be equipped with hidden emergency buttons, passwords and automatic theft sensing electronics.

### Exhibition of photography in 19th century India

ONE hundred fifty one facsimile photographs, selected from the vast archives of the British library's oriental and India office collections, were exhibited in Bhubaneswar recently. They were part of an exhibition held to commemorate India's 150 years of photography. Titled "A shifting focus: photography in India 1850-1900", the exhibition was organised by the British Council and British Library in collaboration with the Orissa government's Department of Tourism and Culture.

The exhibition covered the period between 1850 and 1900, which heralded experimentation in both the technical and functional development of the medium. The exhibition showed that photography in India during the 19th century compared favourably with the finest produced anywhere else in the world.

# SPORTS

## BILLIARDS

**World professional billiards championship**

**MIKE** Russell regained his world crown after a gap of four years by defeating Geet Sethi by 686 points in a disappointingly one-sided title-clash of the Gold Flake world professional billiards championship that was held in Mumbai.

## BOXING

**World Boxing Association (WBA) heavy-weight title**

**MIKE** Tyson defeated Bruce Seldon to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) heavy-weight title held in Las Vegas on September 8.

Later on September 25, the World Boxing Council (WBC) declared the heavy-weight title vacant. Mike Tyson had to relinquish his title after violation of a New Jersey court order which required Tyson to fight Lennox Lewis of Britain before facing WBA champion Bruce Seldon. The WBC will now hold a public purse bid for the title fight between Lennox Lewis and Oliver McCall (US).

## CHESS

**Credit Suisse Masters Rapid Chess Tournament**

**VISWANATH** Anand of India defeated Garry Kasparov of Russia, 2.5-1.5, to win the Credit Suisse Masters Rapid Chess Tournament.

**National Women's 'B' chess championship**

**ANUPAMA** Gokhale of Petroleum Sports Control Board claimed the 23rd National Women's 'B' chess championship with 7.5 points. The championship was held

in Bangalore.

## CRICKET

**Singer Cup**

**WORLD** Cup Champions Sri Lanka clinched a 50-run victory over Australia to claim the triangular series Singer Cup held in Colombo. India was the third participating country.

**Sri Lanka-Zimbabwe Test match series**

**SRI** Lanka swept the two-Test series when it beat Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in the Second Test match held in Colombo. The first test was won by Sri Lanka by an innings and 77 runs.

**Sahara Cup friendship cricket series**

**PAKISTAN** clinched the Sahara Cup friendship cricket series 3-2 with a 52-run victory over India in the fifth and final one-day held in Toronto, Canada.

**Irani Trophy**

**KARNATAKA** won the Irani Trophy, held in Bangalore, beating Rest of India by 5 wickets.

**New Manager**

**THE** Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that former Test cricketer Madan Lal would be the new cricket manager of the Indian team.

Madan Lal, an all-rounder who was in the 1983 World Cup winning team, replaced Sandip Patil who had earlier taken over from Ajit Wadekar.

## HOCKEY

**48th Senior national women's hockey championship**

**RAILWAYS** won the championship by

beating Bihar with a comfortable margin of 3-1 at the National Stadium in New Delhi.

## KHO-KHO

**First Asian Kho-Kho Championship**

**INDIA** won the first Asian Kho-Kho championship by beating Bangladesh 30-11 in the final round of the five-nation meet held in Calcutta.

## SWIMMING

**Junior National Swimming Championships**

**KARNATAKA** won the overall team championship, followed by Delhi.

In the boys group II championship, Elvis Ali Hazarika of Assam helped the State win the Championship in that category. Karnataka won the boys Group I and girls Group II titles.

## TENNIS

**US Open**

**PETE** Sampras beat Michael Chang 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) to win his fourth US Open title. Sampras put on an impeccable show of force and grace starting from his first 125 mph (200 kph) service winner to his last at 117 mph (188 kph).

**Steffi** Graf beat Monica Seles 7-5, 6-4 to win the women's singles title.

With this win, Graf clinched her fifth US Open title as well as her 21st Grand Slam title.

**ATP Challenger tennis tournament**

**OLEG** Ogorodov of Uzbekistan beat Leander Paes 6-7 (2-7), 3-6 in the final of the ATP Challenger tennis tournament held in Madras.

# Question Box

## Q. What is HDI?

—Azmat Kamal, New Delhi

A. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has devised indices that compare the state of different development parameters in countries. HDI, or Human Development Index, is one of them and gives a measure of human development. It is calculated by taking into account life expectancy, literacy and adjusted per capita real GDP. HDIs of different countries were published in *Competition Master*, October 1995 issue.

Q. On what basis is a country called underdeveloped? Can India be called underdeveloped?

—Sonu Sadan, Kathua (J&K)

A. The term 'underdeveloped country' is a euphemism for 'poor'. India can be classified as a developing country.

Q. I am poor in English. Please give me some suggestions for improving my language.

—R. Srinivasa, Visakhapatnam (AP)

A. Most people in our country who study English as a second language are weak in English. It can be increased by reading good books and listening to programmes on the radio and watching television. Practice in speaking must also be done. Improvement of a language is a long-term effort and you can join an institute in your area which will help you with exercises and develop both your writing and speaking skills.

Q. What is the meaning of the double which Michael Johnson won in the Atlanta Olympics?

—Vijal Prasad, Hyderabad

A. Michael Johnson won the gold medals for both the 200m and the 400m race, which is called a double.

## Q. What is braille?

—Tapan Bera, 24 Parganas (West Bengal)

A. Braille is a form of printing in which the characters are defined by a series of dots on paper, which are raised. A blind person can feel the raised parts and can read by means of passing their fingers on the paper.

Q. I cannot afford the expenses of an MBA course. Are any scholarships or loan facilities available?

—A.K. Maity, Alwar (Rajasthan)

A. With the trend of privatisation in education, fee for the MBA has been increasing over the years. There are few scholarships available, which you can check out with the respective institutes. Banks too give education loans, provided you have some security to offer them.

Q. I have done my graduation in biochemistry. Should I do M.Sc. or MBA?

—Shazli Khan, Aligarh

A. What you should do is a personal decision. It would also depend on your aptitude and interest.

Q. I am an arts student and would like to do MBA. Where can I get counselling and help regarding this career?

—Sonia Singh, Chandigarh

A. You should start preparations early to get into a good institute. The pattern of the paper has been discussed in our management feature. For professional help and counselling, contact a professional institute in Chandigarh.

Q. How can I become captain of a ship?

—L. Swaroop, Hyderabad

A. Look for training for the Merchant Navy and join it. Some of the institutes are featured in our Admissions

Alert column.

Q. I am studying in class 12 and would like to make a career in the Army or Air Force. Please advise me.

—Sukhjit Kaur, Ludhiana (Punjab)

A. There are a number of options available and women can join in any area they like. You can prepare for the entry at different levels. For further information, contact the Women's Cell at Army HQ.

Q. Is it necessary to get a fellowship of the UGC for becoming a lecturer?

—Ajeet Singh Kuwari, Purnea (Bihar)

A. You would have to appear in the NET exam of the UGC, which will qualify you to become a lecturer.

Q. I want to make my career in television. Please advise me what I should do.

—Kumari Shashi Singh, Ambala

A. Television offers several areas in which you can make a career—technical, presentation, reporting and so on. You should decide which field you are interested in, and then get training and apply accordingly.

Q. I want to do MCA. What are the future prospects of the course?

—Ekta Ahluwalia, New Delhi

A. Computers is a growing field, so the prospects for it are good.

Q. What is TOEFL? What is the address for appearing in the TOEFL?

—R.K. Thakur, Kanpur

A. TOEFL is a Test of English as a Foreign Language. It is a three and a half hour test of English proficiency and consists of listening, writing and reading comprehension. The address is: TOEFL Programs and Services, P.O. Box 6155, Princeton, NJ 08541-6155, USA.

**Q. We are sick of corruption in public life. How can our society become clean and honest once again?**

—Subrat Ranjan, Rairangpur (Orissa)

**A.** For the society to become clean, an improvement in individual values and morals is required. Unfortunately, that is not happening. Some other methods of controlling corruption have been mentioned in our cover story "Selling the Nation" published in the March, '96 issue.

**Q. What is "red tapism"?**

—Malkit Singh, Kalimpong (W.B.)

**A.** Red tapism refers to excessive bureaucracy, especially in public areas. It comes from the tape that government files are tied up in. To get the officials to do something would imply that the red tape is to be removed.

**Q. What is the cash reserve ratio?**

—Narinder Singh, Nauri (HP)

**A.** Cash reserve ratio is the ratio of the cash that a bank must hold, in relation to its deposits. It is the balance money which it can invest or loan. The CRR is controlled by the RBI and it is necessary to have some cash in a bank to meet day-to-day transactions.

**Q. I am a student of science. I have a serious problem since we do not have good teachers in our village. What can be a solution to this problem?**

—Ravindra Kumar Meena, Neevaganj (UP)

**A.** The only solution would be to shift to a city and join a good school or private coaching classes.

**Q. What are non-voting shares?**

—Vital Prasad, Hyderabad (AP)

**A.** Shares in a company normally carry voting rights i.e., a shareholder can vote in the company's AGM. Non-voting shares are like other shares, but the shareholder does not have the right to vote in the AGM.

**Q. Can reservation solve the problems of the poor?**

—Gouri Shankar, Gudari (Orissa)

**A.** This has been a hotly debated topic and the general opinion is that reservation has outlived its purpose. It is only the educated among the poor who corner all the benefits of reservation while the illiterate has nothing to look forward to. The effect of reservations on poverty is illustrated by the fact that reservations have had no considerable impact on the poor; only economic policies can uplift them.

**Q. What is the difference between Public and Private Sector?**

—Sangram Kr. Nayak, Berhampur (Orissa)

**A.** The public sector consists of companies which are owned by the government. On the other hand private sector constitutes privately owned companies.

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# Quantitative Aptitude

**TTE Commercial Clerks Exam held by RRB Mumbai  
on 23rd June, 1996**

1. Find the area of plywood in sq cm used for making a closed box 25 cm long, 20 cm wide and 10 cm high.

- (a) 900 (b) 500 (c) 1900  
(d) None of these

2. The perimeters of a circular and another square field are equal. Find the area in sq m of the circular field if the area of the square field is 121 sq m.

- (a) 110 (b) 154 (c) 222  
(d) None of these

3. A classroom for 100 students is to be built. Each student requires 10 sq m floor area and 15 cu m of air. If the room is to be 20 m long, what should be the height of the room in meters?

- (a) 7 (b) 3.5 (c) 2.8 (d) 1.5

4. A man takes 3 hours and 45 min to row a boat 15 km downstream of a river and 2 hours and 30 min to cover a distance of 5 km upstream. Find the speed of the river current in km per hour.

- (a) 1 (b) 3 (c) 2 (d) 4

5. Anand and Sanjeev together can finish a work in 8 days. Anand alone can do it in 12 days. How many days will Sanjeev alone take to complete the same work?

- (a) 16 (b) 24 (c) 4  
(d) None of these

6.  $19/20$  of 21 is equal to  $1/30$  of:

- (a)  $598\frac{1}{2}$  (b) 56 (c) 621 (d)  $42\frac{1}{4}$

7. The average of (the product of a and b) and b is equal to a. An expression for a is:

- (a)  $\frac{b-2}{b}$  (b)  $\frac{-b}{b-2}$  (c)  $2+b$  (d)  $4-b+\frac{1}{b}$

8. The salary of Sunil is 40% more than that of Sonia. By what per cent is the salary of Sonia less than that of Sunil?

- (a) 40 (b) 25 (c)  $28\frac{4}{7}$  (d) 23

9. The ages of Ramesh and Suresh are in the ratio 9 : 4. Seven years hence, the ratio of their ages will be 5 : 3. What is the present age of Ramesh in years?

- (a) 25 (b) 18 (c) 30 (d) 48

10. The average age of 8 men increases by 2 years when one of them whose age is 20 years is replaced by a fresh man. What is the age of the fresh man in years?

- (a) 30 (b) 32 (c) 36 (d) 38

11. A piece of paper is 25 cm long and 20 cm wide. A triangle of 15 cm base and 8 cm height is cut out of this. What is the area of remaining piece of paper in sq cm?

- (a) 500 (b) 450 (c) 440 (d) 525

12. One NCC camp is planned for 240 cadets for 28 days. But only 112 cadets attend. For how many days can these cadets stay in the camp till the rations are exhausted?

- (a) 56 (b) 120 (c) 60 (d) 90

13. One tap can fill a tank in 60 minutes while the other can empty it in 50 minutes. If the tank is full and both the taps are opened, how many minutes will be required to empty the tank?

- (a) 60 (b) 180 (c) 300 (d) 170

14. The expense of carpeting a hall room was Rs 540. If the length of the room had been 2 metres less than it was, the expense would have been Rs 480. What was the length of the room in metres?

- (a) 18 (b) 36 (c) 24 (d) 32

15. Five years ago, Gopal's age was 5 times the age of Shankar. Three years hence, Gopal's age will be 3 times the age of Shankar. What is the present age of Gopal in years?

- (a) 40 (b) 45 (c) 55 (d) 35

16. In an examination, a candidate must get 40% marks to pass. A candidate who gets 210 marks fails by 40 marks. Find the maximum number of marks.

- (a) 1000 (b) 625 (c) 1250 (d) 500

17. A room is square in shape with each side 5 m. What is the number of tiles of size 20 cm  $\times$  20 cm required to cover the floor of this room?

- (a) 625 (b) 6250 (c) 1250 (d) 1600

18. Ramesh purchased 25 kg of groundnut for Rs 500 and sold it at the rate of Rs 23.50 kg. What is the percentage of profit?

- (a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 17.50 (d) 7.50

19. One wheel is  $7/11$  metres in diameter. The wheel rotates on the ground and makes 20 revolutions in one minute. How much length in metres does it cover in one hour?

- (a) 40 (b) 60 (c) 1200 (d) 2400

20. A bus is running at the speed of 48 km per hour. How do you express the speed in metres per second?

- (a) 48      (b) 40      (c)  $\frac{4}{3}$       (d)  $\frac{40}{3}$

21. The average of 11 numbers is 30. The average of the first six is 35 and that of the last 6 is 28. The sixth number is:

- (a) 38      (b) 48      (c) 32  
(d) None of these

22. A room is 15 m long, 4 m broad and 3 m high. It has one door 1.2 m wide and 2.5 m high. What is the area in sq m of internal painting of walls and the roof?

- (a) 171      (b) 111 m      (c) 114      (d) 1140

23. The sum of  $5/9$ ,  $7/18$  and  $11/24$  = ?

- (a)  $1\frac{29}{72}$       (b)  $1\frac{13}{72}$       (c)  $1\frac{5}{72}$       (d)  $1\frac{7}{72}$

24. A certain lowest number when divided by 28 leaves a remainder of 20. What is the remainder when the same number is divided by 7?

- (a) 2      (b) 6      (c) 3      (d) 5

25. Find the number which when multiplied by 13 is increased by 180.

- (a) 13      (b) 12      (c) 15      (d) 14

26. What sum of money produces Rs 70 as simple interest at 7 per cent in 4 years.

- (a) 500      (b) 250      (c) 400      (d) 700

27. The value of x, where  $x : 2\frac{1}{3} :: 21 : 50$  is:

- (a)  $\frac{27}{50}$       (b)  $\frac{49}{50}$       (c)  $1\frac{1}{50}$       (d)  $1\frac{1}{49}$

28. The value of 3 km and 900 m as a fraction of 19 km and 500 m is:

- (a)  $\frac{3}{13}$       (b)  $\frac{2}{3}$       (c)  $\frac{1}{6}$       (d)  $\frac{1}{5}$

29. 8.5 can be expressed as a percentage as:

- (a) 85%      (b) 8.5%      (c) 850%  
(d) None of these

30. The simplification of  $(8 \times 21 \times 24) / (48 \times 7 \times 15)$  is:

- (a)  $\frac{8}{5}$       (b)  $\frac{4}{5}$       (c)  $\frac{3}{5}$       (d)  $\frac{7}{2}$

(e) None of these

### ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) Reqd area of plywood =  $2(25 \times 20 + 20 \times 10 + 10 \times 25)$

$$= 1900 \text{ sq cm}$$

2. (b) Side of a square field =  $\sqrt{121} = 11 \text{ m}$

$$\therefore \text{Its perimeter} = 4 \times 11 = 44 \text{ m}$$

$$C = 44 \text{ m}$$

$$\therefore r = \frac{C}{2\pi} = \frac{44}{2} \times \frac{7}{22} = 7 \text{ m}$$

$$\therefore \text{Area of circle} = \pi r^2 = \frac{22}{7} \times 7 \times 7 = 154 \text{ sq m}$$

3. (d) Floor area =  $100 \times 10 = 1000 \text{ sq m}$

$$\text{Vol} = 100 \times 15 = 1500 \text{ cu m}$$

$$h = \frac{V}{A} = \frac{1500}{1000} = 1.5 \text{ m}$$

4. (a) Let the speed of boat in still water be x km/hr and that of river current = y km/hr

$$\text{Speed of boat downstream} = x + y \text{ km/hr}$$

$$\text{Speed of boat upstream} = x - y \text{ km/hr} \quad S = \frac{D}{T}$$

$$x + y = 15 \times \frac{4}{15} = 4$$

$$\text{or } x + y = 4 \dots (i)$$

$$x - y = 5 \times \frac{2}{5} = 2$$

$$\text{or } x - y = 2 \dots (ii)$$

$$\text{Solving (i) and (ii) } y = 1 \text{ km/hr}$$

5. (b) Work done by Sanjeev in 1 day =  $\frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{24}$

$$\therefore \text{Reqd. time} = 24 \text{ days}$$

6. (a)  $\frac{19}{20}$  of 21 =  $\frac{1}{30}$  of x

$$\therefore x = \frac{19}{20} \times 21 \times 30 = 598\frac{1}{2}$$

7. (b)  $\frac{ab+b}{2} = a$

$$\therefore ab + b = 2a \Rightarrow ab - 2a = -b$$

$$a(b - 2) = -b \Rightarrow a = \frac{-b}{b - 2}$$

8. (c) Reqd %age =  $\frac{40}{100 + 40} \times 100$

$$= \frac{200}{7} = 28\frac{4}{7}$$

9. (b) Let the present ages of Ramesh and Suresh be 9x and 4x respectively

$$\therefore \text{ATS } \frac{9x+7}{4x+7} = \frac{5}{3}$$

$$\therefore x = 2$$

$$\therefore 9x = 9 \times 2 = 18$$

10. (c) Age of fresh man =  $8(x + 2) - (8x - 20) = 36$  years

Where x is the average age of 8 men

11. (c) Area of the remaining piece of paper

$$= 25 \times 20 - \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \times 15 = 440 \text{ sq cm}$$

12. (c)  $240 : 112 = x : 28$

$$\text{or } x = \frac{240 \times 28}{112} = 60 \text{ days}$$

13. (c) Work done in 1 minute to empty the tank

$$= \frac{1}{50} - \frac{1}{60} = \frac{1}{300}$$

$$\therefore \text{Reqd time} = 300 \text{ minutes}$$

14. (a) Let the reqd length be l m

$$\text{Rate of carpeting} = \frac{\text{Cost}}{\text{Area}}$$

$$\text{A.T.S. } \frac{2 \times 540}{lb} = \frac{2 \times 480}{(l-2)b} \Rightarrow l = 18$$

15. (b) Let Shanker's present age be x years

5 years ago, Shanker's age was x-5 years

$\therefore$  Gopal's age =  $5(x - 5)$   
 After 3 years, Shanker's age =  $x + 3$  years  
 $\therefore$  Gopal's age =  $3(x + 3)$   
 A.T.S.  $3(x + 3) - 5(x - 5) = 8 \Rightarrow x = 13$  years  
 Present age of Gopal =  $3(x + 3) - 3 = 3(13 + 3) - 3$   
 $= 45$  yrs

16. (b) Let the max no =  $x$

$$\therefore 40\% \text{ of } x = 210 + 40 \Rightarrow x = 625$$

17. (a) No. of tiles =  $\frac{(5 \times 100) \times (5 \times 100)}{20 \times 20} = 625$

18. (c) CP = Rs 500

$$SP = 23.50 \times 25 = \text{Rs } 587.50$$

$$\text{Gain} = 587.50 - 500 = \text{Rs } 87.50$$

$$\text{Gain}\% = \frac{87.50}{500} \times 100 = 17.50$$

19. (d) Distance covered in 1 minute =  $20 \times 2\pi r$

$$= 20 \times 2 \times \frac{22}{7} \times \frac{7}{22} = 40 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{Distance covered in 60 minute} = 40 \times 60 = 2400 \text{ m}$$

20. (d) Speed in m/sec =  $48 \times \frac{1000}{3600} = \frac{40}{3}$

21. (b) Sixth No. =  $6 \times 35 + 6 \times 28 - 11 \times 30 = 48$

22. (b) Reqd area =  $2(15 + 4) \times 3 - (1.2 \times 2.5)$   
 $= 111.00 \text{ sq m}$

23. (a)

24. (b) No. =  $28 \times Q + 20 = 7 \times 4 \times Q + (2 \times 7 + 6)$   
 $= 7(4Q + 2) + 6$

$$\text{Reqd. remainder} = 6$$

25. (c)  $13x = x + 180 \Rightarrow x = 15$

26. (b)  $P = \frac{SI \times 100}{R \times T}$   
 $= \frac{70 \times 100}{7 \times 4} = \text{Rs } 250$

27. (b)  $x : \frac{7}{3} = 21 : 50$

$$\therefore x = \frac{7}{3} \times \frac{21}{50} = \frac{49}{50}$$

28. (d)  $3 \text{ km } 900 \text{ m} = 3 \times 1000 + 900 = 3900 \text{ m}$

$$\text{Reqd. fraction} = \frac{3900}{19500} = \frac{1}{5}$$

29. (c)  $(8.5 \times 100)\% = 850\%$

30. (b)  $\frac{8 \times 21 \times 24}{48 \times 7 \times 15} = \frac{4}{5}$

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# GENERAL AWARENESS

## Orissa Staff Selection Commission, Industries Promotion Officers' Exam held on the 16th June, 1996

We are grateful to Mr Alakananda Mohanty of Ainthapalli (Sambalpur) for sending these questions to us.

- Aryans did not know the use of:
  - Horse
  - Armour
  - Iron
  - None of these
- Muin-ud-Din Chishti was buried at:
  - Fatehpur Sikri
  - Agra
  - Ajmer
  - Delhi
- Mahavir was born at:
  - Vaishali
  - Pataliputra
  - Kasi
  - Takshila
- Find the incorrect pair:
  - Buddha—Lumbini
  - Vedvyas—Vedanta
  - Tukaram—U.P.
  - Harshavardhan—Ratnavali
- Find out the wrong combination:
  - Liberation of Goa—1960
  - Indo-Soviet Treaty—1971
  - National Emergency—1975
  - None of these
- Find the mis-match of the following:
  - 1757—Battle of Plassey
  - 1835—English was used as medium of instruction in India
  - 1805—Battle of Trafalgar
  - 1793—Death of Tipu Sultan
- Who was the founder of Bramho Samaj?
  - Raja Ram Mohan Roy
  - Jai Prakash Narayan
  - Vinoba Bhave
  - None of these
- What is meant by Latitude?
  - It is the line joining the two Poles
  - It is the angular distance between the Poles
  - It is the distance of any place north or south of the Equator
  - None of these
- Which country is the maximum producer of coffee?
  - India
  - China
  - Sri Lanka
  - Brazil
- ASEAN was formed in the year?
  - 1954
  - 1962
  - 1967
  - 1972
- Who was the witness of the Israel-Egypt peace accord held in 1979?
  - Indira Gandhi
  - Nasser
  - Carter
  - None of these
- Which branch of UN won the Nobel Peace Prize in the year 1965?
  - FAO
  - WHO
  - UNESCO
  - UNICEF
- The name of which country's Parliament is known as Congress?
  - UK
  - USSR
  - USA
  - Norway
- Who is the author of *Le Contract Social* (The Social Contract)?
  - Marx
  - Rousseau
  - Faulkner
  - None of these
- Who is the Chairman of Council of States?
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Speaker of Lok Sabha
  - Prime Minister
- Education is a subject of:
  - State List
  - Union List
  - Concurrent List
  - None of these
- Females outnumber males in which State of India?
  - Bihar
  - Kerala
  - Karnataka
  - Assam
- Which State has the most of its population under poverty line?
  - Orissa
  - Bihar
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Sikkim
- Octroi tax is a source of revenue of:
  - Revenue tax of State
  - Tax of Municipal Corporation
  - Both (a) and (b)
  - None of these
- Which vitamin deficiency causes excess bleeding?
  - A
  - D
  - K
  - E
- It is easier to swim in sea because:
  - Salinity
  - Density is higher than fresh water
  - Due to Tide
  - None of these
- Genetic Engineering is known as:
  - Biochemistry
  - Biophysics
  - Biotechnology
  - None of these
- What was India's position in Hiroshima Asiad in hockey?
  - 1st
  - 2nd
  - 3rd
  - 4th
- Which Tribal Community of Manipur is engaged in war against the Nagas?
  - Kukis
  - Khasis
  - Meathans
  - None of these
- Which State has the highest percentage of reserve seats for SC, ST and OBC candidates?
  - UP
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Karnataka
  - Bihar
- Which film won the 66th OSCAR award in the year 1994?
  - Schindler's List
  - Fugitive
  - Jurassic Park
  - Bandit Queen
- Which country has given asylum on the writ of Tas-

lima Nasreen?

- (a) USA (b) India  
(c) Sweden (d) Switzerland

28. Which country is the highest donor of Aid to India in Aid-India Consortium?

- (a) Germany (b) Japan  
(c) Italy (d) Russia

29. Kilowatt is the unit of:

- (a) Energy (b) Power  
(c) Charge (d) Voltage

30. Minimum velocity required for a rocket to escape the Earth's gravitational force is:

- (a) 8.1 km/s (b) 11.2 km/s  
(c) 18.2 km/s (d) 35.2 km/s

31. Which tree grows faster of the following?

- (a) Teak (b) Eucalyptus  
(c) Banyan (d) Coconut

32. Water pollution in river is measured by the percentage of dissolved amount of:

- (a) Oxygen (b) Ozone  
(c) Hydrogen (d) Nitrogen

33. What type of mirror is used in vehicles for rear viewing?

- (a) Convex (b) Concave  
(c) Plane mirror (d) Plano-concave

34. Isotopes of an element are different because of:

- (a) change in protons  
(b) change in neutrons  
(c) change in electrons  
(d) Both (a) and (b)

35. Which of the following is a rich source of Nicotine?

- (a) Tea (b) Coffee  
(c) Tobacco (d) None of these

36. Which party was in power in England when India got Independence?

- (a) Conservative  
(b) Labour  
(c) Liberal—Democratic  
(d) None of these

37. During whose rule British received permission to establish their camp in India?

- (a) Shah Jahan (b) Jahangir  
(c) Aurangzeb (d) Akbar

38. Which industry in India employs highest number of persons?

- (a) Steel and Iron (b) Textile  
(c) Cotton (d) Leather

39. Madhya Pradesh has common boundaries with how many States?

- (a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7

40. Which Indian State tops with 90.59 per cent literacy rate?

- (a) Delhi (b) Maharashtra  
(c) Chandigarh (d) Kerala

41. Which State has no Legislative Council?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) West Bengal  
(c) Bihar (d) Maharashtra

42. Finance Commission is constituted in every:

- (a) Two years (b) Three years  
(c) Four years (d) Five years

43. Panchayat Raj was constituted in the year:

- (a) 1957 (b) 1952  
(c) 1951 (d) 1959

44. Extinction of Lion is feared in which Indian State?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Assam  
(c) Maharashtra (d) Uttar Pradesh

45. Bile secreted in stomach is used for:

- (a) blood purification in kidney  
(b) purification of blood outside kidney  
(c) digestion of food  
(d) None of these

46. Value of Indian Currency is related to:

- (a) Devaluation according to Dollar  
(b) Devaluation according to Pound  
(c) According to Gold reserve  
(d) None of these

47. Indian Constitution contains how many schedules?

- (a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 10 (d) 11

48. India's Main Battle Tank (MBT) is known as:

- (a) Pinaki (b) Arjun  
(c) Trishul (d) Akash

49. Which State has the longest coastline?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu  
(c) Kerala (d) Orissa

50. Bunting is a term in which game?

- (a) Chess (b) Cricket  
(c) Baseball (d) Golf

51. Kalahari desert is situated in:

- (a) Southern part of North America  
(b) South-Western part of Asia  
(c) South-Western part of Africa  
(d) North-Eastern part of Africa

52. India's first indigenously developed spacecraft, launched in 1975, was:

- (a) APPLE (b) INSAT-1C  
(c) INSAT-2A (d) Aryabhata

53. Who won the best actress award in 1994 (41st National Film award)?

- (a) Shabana Azmi (b) Juhi Chawla  
(c) Shobana (d) Amrita Singh

54. In Refrigeration, refrigerant used is:

- (a) Ammonia (b) Nitrogen  
(c) Freon (d) Carbon Dioxide

55. Decomposition of Organic matters is due to:

- (a) Fungi (b) Bacteria  
(c) Virus (d) Both (a) and (b)

56. Great Indian Bustard is found in:

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan  
(c) Assam (d) Nagaland

57. Substance used for glowing match-stick is:

- (a) Phosphorus (b) Sodium  
(c) Zinc (d) Uranium

58. The 1995 Sultan Azlan Shah hockey tournament was won by:

- (a) Germany (b) India  
(c) Malaysia (d) Indonesia

59. Which of the following films won the 67th Oscar award as the best film?

- (a) Forest Gump (b) Blue Sky  
(c) Ed Wood (d) Burnt

60. A secular State:

- (a) does not believe in God  
(b) believes in only one particular religion  
(c) prefers to leave religion as a matter of individual conscience  
(d) believes in all religions

**TTE Commercial Clerks Exam held by RRB Mumbai on  
23rd June, 1996**

*We are grateful to Shri Shyama Sundar Shastry for sending the following questions to us.*

61. Which river falls in the Bay of Bengal?  
(a) Narbada (b) Tapi  
(c) Mahanadi (d) Chambal
62. Vasco de Gama reached Calicut in:  
(a) 1748 (b) 1498  
(c) 1698 (d) 1248
63. Who invented the Steam locomotive?  
(a) Edison (b) Stevenson  
(c) JRD Tata (d) Alexander
64. In India, "Teachers' Day" is observed every year on:  
(a) November 14 (b) May 15  
(c) September 5 (d) None of these
65. Who is known as the "Architect of the Constitution of India"?  
(a) Rajendra Prasad  
(b) V.V. Giri  
(c) B.R. Ambedkar  
(d) Dr S. Radhakrishnan
66. What is the approximate population of India as per last census in crores?  
(a) 100 (b) 84 (c) 78 (d) 91
67. The largest copper producing country in the world is:  
(a) U.S.A. (b) Russia  
(c) South Africa (d) Chile
68. Who was the Governor-General of India when the country became independent?  
(a) Lord Attlee (b) Lord Mountbatten  
(c) Lord Falkland (d) None of these
69. When was Indian National Congress born?  
(a) 1880 (b) 1882  
(c) 1885 (d) 1895  
(e) 1875
70. The party in power in Tamil Nadu is:  
(a) DMK (b) AIADMK  
(c) Congress (d) Both (b) & (c)  
(e) None of these
71. BCG vaccine is used for prevention of this disease in children:  
(a) poliomyelitis (b) Tuberculosis  
(c) Cholera (d) None of these
72. Who wrote "Alice in Wonderland"?  
(a) John Snow (b) Shakespeare  
(c) Lewis Carrol (d) Oscar Wilde
73. Who is the author of: "मेरी इक्यावन कविताएं"  
(a) Narasimha Rao (b) Atal Behari Vajpayee  
(c) Viswanath Pratap Singh  
(d) None of these
74. In India, the shortest day occurs on:  
(a) December 1 (b) January 1  
(c) December 21 (d) December 31
75. South pole is located in the continent of:  
(a) Africa (b) Australia  
(c) Greenland (d) Antarctica
76. The atmospheric pressure at any place is measured by:  
(a) Altimeter (b) Pressuremeter  
(c) Barometer (d) Thermometer

- (e) None of these
77. Which of the following countries was not a semi-finalist in the Cricket World Cup 1996?  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) England  
(c) Australia (d) India  
(e) West Indies
78. India's PSLV rocket was successfully fired in March 1996 from:  
(a) Trivandrum (b) Hassan  
(c) Sriharikota (d) Chandipur
79. This shrine was burnt down by Kashmiri militants in 1995:  
(a) Hazratbal  
(b) Charar-e-Sharief  
(c) A temple in Jammu  
(d) A temple in Anantnag  
(e) None of these
80. The term "Let" is associated with the game of:  
(a) Cricket (b) Billiards  
(c) Bridge (d) Badminton  
(e) Lawn Tennis

**The questions given below were set in a Bihar Public Service Commissions Examination held recently.**

81. "Bombay High" is located away from Bombay at a distance of:  
(a) 176 km (b) 205 km  
(c) 370 km (d) 375 km
82. Two rivers of Dandkaranya region are:  
(a) Nagawali and Bansdhara  
(b) Khajoori and Ojhla  
(c) Dhasan and Kain  
(d) None of these
83. Caribou is:  
(a) an Island (b) an animal  
(c) a river (d) a plant
84. Indian example of glacial lake is:  
(a) Dal Lake (b) Sambhar Lake  
(c) Bhimtal Lake (d) Guhna Lake
85. Westward flowing river is:  
(a) Vaigai river (b) Bharpa river  
(c) Mahi river (d) None of these
86. Kedarnath Peak is located in:  
(a) Punjab Himalaya  
(b) Kashmir Himalaya  
(c) Nepal Himalaya  
(d) None of these
87. Maithon Dam is constructed on:  
(a) Koel river  
(b) Damodar river  
(c) Bokaro river  
(d) Barakar river
88. Indira Gandhi Canal Project is located in:  
(a) North-West Rajasthan  
(b) South-East Rajasthan  
(c) Western U.P.  
(d) Madhya Pradesh
89. 'Tharu' is a tribe of:  
(a) Damodar valley (b) Dumka  
(c) Palamau (d) N. West Tarai region
90. The general slope of the Ganga plain in Bihar is in per kilometer:  
(a) 35 cm (b) 48 cm

- (c) 59 cm (d) 120 cm
- 91 In the production of Bauxite Bihar ranks  
(a) First (b) Second  
(c) Third (d) Fifth
- 92 Iron was first used in India around  
(a) 1500 BC (b) 1200 BC  
(c) 800 BC (d) 600 BC
- 93 What was the function of the *Rajukas* in Mauryan administration?  
(a) They were spies  
(b) They were tax-collectors  
(c) They were judicial officers  
(d) They were responsible for public welfare
- 94 Who among the following were the first to issue gold coins?  
(a) Mauryas (b) Indo-Greeks  
(c) Kushans (d) Guptas
- 95 The Gupta empire was divided into smaller administrative units. The most important of these was  
(a) Vishaya (b) Vithi  
(c) Pradesh (d) Bhukti
- 96 The *Surya Siddhanta* of Aryabhatta was translated into Arabic by  
(a) al-Razi (b) al-Fazari  
(c) al-Biruni (d) al-Farabi
- 97 Who among the following rulers was the first to set up a department of agriculture?  
(a) Alauddin Khilji  
(b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq  
(c) Firoz Shah  
(d) Sher Shah
- 98 The memoirs of Sultan Firoz Shah is known as  
(a) Tarikh-i Firoz Shahi  
(b) Fatawa-i Firoz Shahi  
(c) Dalail-i Firoz Shahi  
(d) Futuhat-i Firoz Shahi
- 99 Akbar was influenced by earlier rulers in all his following measures, except  
(a) religious tolerance  
(b) revenue system  
(c) military administration  
(d) theory of kingship
- 100 Which of the following is the official history of the reign of Jahangir?  
(a) Tuzuk-i Jahangiri  
(b) Maasii-i Jahangiri  
(c) Iqbalnama-i Jahangiri  
(d) Tarikh-i Jahangiri
- 101 Aurangzeb levied higher trade-duties on Hindu traders  
(a) from the beginning of his reign  
(b) in the year 1665  
(c) in the year 1679  
(d) in the year 1689
- 102 Jahangir allowed the English to begin their trade at Surat through a *farman* granted to  
(a) William Hawkins (b) Thomas Aldworth  
(c) Edward Terry (d) Sir Thomas Roe
- 103 The Governor-General who knew both Persian and Bengali languages was  
(a) Warren Hastings (b) William Bentinck  
(c) Lord Wellesley (d) Lord Dalhousie
- 104 The Royal Asiatic Society was founded in India

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during the Governor-Generalship of:

- (a) Warren Hastings (b) William Bentinck  
(c) Lord Hastings (d) Lord Dalhousie

105. Which of the following statements about Lord Cornwallis is *incorrect*?

- (a) He destroyed the power of Tipu Sultan  
(b) He introduced Permanent Settlement  
(c) Before coming to India he had been defeated by the American Colonists  
(d) His term of office in India was from 1789 to 1798

106. Lord William Bentinck is remembered for his reforms. Which of the following was *not* implemented during his reign?

- (a) Abolition of Sati (b) Abolition of Slavery  
(c) Suppression of Thuggee  
(d) Beginning of western education with English as the medium of instruction

107. Why did the British *not* annex Punjab after the first Sikh war?

- (a) The Company was averse to annexation  
(b) The Home Government was averse to annexation  
(c) Lord Hardinge needed more troops for this purpose  
(d) Lord Hardinge wanted to win over the Sikhs by liberal treatment

108. The Morley-Minto Reforms mainly aimed at:

- (a) delegating more power to the Indians  
(b) wooing the Moderates in the Indian National Congress  
(c) expansion of the legislature  
(d) None of the above

109. Re-marriage of widows was legalised in:

- (a) 1859 (b) 1856 (c) 1872 (d) 1869

110. Which of the following States has introduced the "Apni Beti Apna Dhan" scheme for the welfare of the girl-child?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu  
(c) Haryana (d) Rajasthan

111. A comparatively cool reddish star with diameter almost 35 times that of the Sun is:

- (a) Super giant star (b) Giant star  
(c) Nova (d) Super Nova

112. Newt Gingrich has been in the news recently. He was:

- (a) elected Speaker of the U.S. Senate  
(b) elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
(c) nominated Presidential candidate by the Republican Party  
(d) nominated as candidate for the office of vice-President by the Republican Party

113. Nick Leeson was arrested recently in Frankfurt. He is:

- (a) an international terrorist  
(b) a political worker  
(c) former official of Baring Bank  
(d) None of the above

114. What is the Hamas?

- (a) Organisation of Palestinian Arabs supporting Israel  
(b) Militant organisation of Arabs responsible for terrorist violence against Israel  
(c) A co-ordination committee to supervise transfer of power to Palestinian Arabs  
(d) None of the above

115. If father and mother possess A-group of blood, the children will have the group:

- (a) A (b) A or B (c) A, B (d) A or O

116. The density of pure water will be maximum on:

- (a) 0°C (b) 4°C (c) 25°C (d) 100°C

117. Which of the following salt will show acidic character when dissolved in water?

- (a) Sodium chloride (b) Potassium chloride  
(c) Lithium chloride (d) Ammonium chloride

## ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b)
5. (a) Goa was liberated in 1961.
6. (d) He died fighting the British forces in the fourth Mysore war in 1799.
7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (d)
10. (c) ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) is an international organisation established by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand on Aug 8, 1967.  
*Britannica 1991, Vol II, Page 50.*
11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (b)
15. (b) 16. (a) 17. (b) 18. (b)
19. (b) 20. (c) 21. (b) 22. (c)
23. (b) 24. (a) 25. (a) 26. (a)
27. (c) 28. (b) 29. (b) 30. (b)
31. (b) 32. (d) 33. (a) 34. (d)
35. (c) 36. (b) 37. (b) 38. (b)
39. (d) 40. (d) 41. (b) 42. (d)
43. (d) 44. (b) 45. (c) 46. (a)
47. (d) 48. (b) 49. (b) 50. (c)
51. (c) 52. (d) 53. (c) 54. (c)
55. (d) 56. (a) 57. (a) 58. (b)
59. (a) 60. (c) 61. (c) 62. (b)
63. (b) 64. (c) 65. (c) 66. (b)
67. (d) 68. (b) 69. (c) 70. (a)
71. (b) 72. (c) 73. (b) 74. (c)
75. (d) 76. (c) 77. (b) 78. (c)
79. (b) 80. (d) 81. (a) 82. (d)
83. (b) also called reinder.
84. (a) 85. (d)
86. (d) Kedarnath Peak is in Garhwal district of U.P.
87. (b) 88. (a)
89. (d) Tharus are tribal people of the Tarai region of the Himalayan foot-hills located in southern Nepal and in the State of Uttar Pradesh in India. They are largely Indian in Culture.  
*Britannica 1991, Vol. 11, Page 676.*
90. (a) 91. (a) 92. (a) 93. (d)
94. (a) 95. (a) 96. (c) 97. (b)
98. (a) 99. (a) 100. (c) 101. (c)
102. (d) 103. (a) 104. (a)
105. (d) His term of office in India was 1786-1793.
106. (b) 107. (c) 108. (c) 109. (b)
110. (c)
111. (b) *Britannica, 1991, Vol 5, Page 247.*
112. (a) 113. (c) 114. (b) 115. (d)
116. (b) 117. (d)

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

National Defence Academy Exam April 1996

## PART-A

### USAGE

#### Spotting Errors (Items 1 to 6)

##### Directions:

(i) In this section 6 sentences are given. Each sentence has three parts, indicated by (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error. If you find an error in any one of the parts (a, b, c), indicate your response by blackening the letter related to that part in the Answer Sheet provided. If a sentence has no error, indicate this by blackening 'd' which stands for "No error".

(ii) Errors may belong to grammar, usage or idiom. Examples P and Q have been solved for you.

P. My friend and myself(a) study together(b) during holidays.(c) No error.(d)

Q. The rice from Dehradun is(a) more superior(b) to that of Saharanpur.(c) No error.(d)

##### Solution:

The correct answer for P is letter 'd' because the sentence has no mistake in it. The correct answer for Q is 'b' because the mistake in the sentence is in the part carrying the letter 'b'.

Now attempt items 1 to 6.

1. If a thing(a) is worth doing at all(b) it is worth done well.(c) No error.(d)

2. All the boys(a) returned back home(b) well in time for lunch.(c) No error.(d)

3. Tell me the name of(a) a country where every citizen is law-abiding(b) and no trouble is there.(c) No error.(d)

4. Considering about these facts(a) the principal has offered(b) him a seat.(c) No error.(d)

5. It is not difficult to believe that a man(a) who has lived in this city for a long time(b) he will never feel at home anywhere else in the world.(c) No error.(d)

6. Although we reached his house on time(a) he was left(b) for the airport.(c) No error.(d)

### Sentence Improvement

(Items 7 to 12)

##### Directions:

Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (a), (b) or (c) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (d) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a 'No improvement' response will be signified by the letter (d). Examples R and S have been solved for you.

R. The young child sung a very sweet song.

- (a) singed the
- (b) singed
- (c) sang a
- (d) No improvement

S. I have already read this book twice.

- (a) I already twice have read this book.
- (b) I twice have already read this book.
- (c) I have twice already read this book.
- (d) No improvement

##### Explanation:

For item R, the correct sentence should read, "The young child sang a very sweet song". 'c' is therefore, the correct answer.

Item S is a correct sentence. None of the changes suggested will improve it. 'd' is therefore, the correct answer.

Errors may be in grammar, appropriate word usage or idioms. There may be a necessary word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

Now attempt items 7 to 12.

7. Sri Pashupatinath is a worth seeing temple in Kathmandu.

- (a) a temple to see its worth
- (b) one of the worth seeing temples

- (c) a temple worth seeing
- (d) No improvement

8. Nothing but books and magazines pleases her.

- (a) please
- (b) are pleasing
- (c) were pleasing
- (d) No improvement

9. Mahatma Gandhi is called as the Father of the Nation.

- (a) called Father of the Nation
- (b) called the Father of the Nation
- (c) Father of the Nation
- (d) No improvement

10. Poor Tom laid in the shade of a tree before he could walk further.

- (a) lied
- (b) lain
- (c) lay
- (d) No improvement

11. You must accustom yourself with new ideas.

- (a) accustomed with
- (b) accustom to
- (c) accustom yourself to
- (d) No improvement

12. One should exercise their right to vote.

- (a) one's
- (b) our
- (c) his
- (d) No improvement

### Synonyms (Items 13 to 17)

##### Directions:

In this Section you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. You may also find only a group of words which is underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word/phrase nearest in meaning to the underlined part and blacken the corresponding space on the Answer Sheet

Example 'E' is solved for you.

E. His style is quite transparent.

- (a) verbose
- (b) involved
- (c) lucid
- (d) witty

Explanation: In item 'E' the word "lucid" is nearest in meaning to the word "transparent". So 'c' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 13 to 17.

13. The teacher felt that the stu-

dent lacked discrimination in the study of his data.

- (a) objectivity
- (b) good judgement
- (c) good taste
- (d) imagination

14. He has implicated them in the conspiracy.

- (a) influenced (b) affected
- (c) involved (d) interested

15. In the murder case, the police found it difficult to identify the accomplice.

- (a) companion (b) victim
- (c) ringleader (d) culprit

16. To his utter surprise, the venture turned out to be highly lucrative.

- (a) satisfactory
- (b) challenging
- (c) profitable
- (d) frustrating

17. Adequate precautions against diseases must be taken after the floods.

- (a) Complete
- (b) Substantial
- (c) Early
- (d) Sufficient

**Antonyms (Items 18 to 22)**

**Directions:**

In this Section each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest to the opposite in meaning of the underlined word or phrase.

Example "F" has been solved for you.

F. Lucy is a smart girl.

- (a) lazy (b) active
- (c) indecent (d) casual

**Explanation:** The word "lazy" is nearest to the opposite in meaning of the word "smart". So 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 18 to 22.

18. There is an obscure cave on the other side of the hill.

- (a) well-known (b) infamous
- (c) notorious (d) admired

19. Even for the citizens of the East Bloc's most prosperous nation, the lure of Capitalism is irresistible.

- (a) destitute
- (b) impoverished
- (c) underdeveloped
- (d) exploited

20. His partners felt that it was a viable business proposition.

- (a) enviable
- (b) unavailable
- (c) inviolable
- (d) impracticable

21. The usual adulation of the officers must end.

- (a) fattery (b) praise
- (c) back-biting
- (d) condemnation

22. He stood gazing at the serene expanse of the sea.

- (a) ruffled (b) tranquil
- (c) clear (d) scenic

## COMPREHENSION

(Items 23 to 34)

**Directions:**

In this Section you have four short passages. After each passage you will find several questions based on the passage. First, read Passage I, and answer the questions based on it. Then go on to the other passages.

Examples 'I' and 'J' are solved for you.

### Passage

In our approach to life, be it pragmatic or otherwise, a basic fact that confronts us squarely and unmistakably is the desire for peace, security and happiness. Different forms of life at different levels of existence make up the teeming denizens of this earth of ours. And, no matter whether they belong to the higher groups such as human beings or to the lower groups such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort and security. Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man. Even the lowliest insect strives for protection against dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and not to die, so do all other creatures.

I. The author's main point is that

- (a) different forms of life are found on earth
- (b) different levels of existence are possible in nature
- (c) peace and security are the chief goals of all living beings
- (d) even the weakest creature struggles to preserve its life

J. Which one of the following assumptions or steps is essential in developing the author's position?

- (a) All forms of life have a single overriding goal
- (b) The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace
- (c) All beings are divided into higher and lower groups
- (d) A parallel is drawn between happiness and life, and pain and death

**Explanation:**

The idea which represents the author's main point is 'peace and

security are the chief goals of all living beings', which is response (c). So 'c' is the correct answer.

The best assumption underlying the passage is 'The will to survive of a creature is identified with a desire for peace', which is response (b). So 'b' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 23 to 34.

### Passage I

Frost sparkled in the early morning sun as Don Stockwell paused outside the sprawling, one-storey school building in Swanzey, New Hampshire. He felt proud and happy. The programmes he had started during his two years as principal of a secondary school were reaping benefits. Morale was high, test scores were rising.

As he did every morning, Stockwell went to his office for a quiet period of paper work. Then, as the school's 1040 students began pouring in from eight towns in the area, he walked towards the cafeteria to mingle with them.

23. The passage refers to a day in

- (a) summer (b) winter
- (c) spring (d) autumn

24. Stockwell felt happy because

- (a) he was the principal
- (b) it was morning time
- (c) his programmes have been successful
- (d) he had become quite rich

25. "He walked towards the cafeteria to mingle with them" means that he wanted to:

- (a) scold the students for being late
- (b) punish the students
- (c) socialize with the students
- (d) teach the students

### Passage II

Many poor farmers had been compelled to take up indigo cultivation when the British settlers were given the right to purchase and cultivate land in India. Many whites, therefore, either acquired land or advanced loans to poor farmers and pressured them to forsake the farming of foodgrains and other cash crops for indigo cultivation. Indigo export to Europe was lucrative for the British settlers who held a monopoly of this business. Within a few years, most of the fertile lands had undergone forcible indigo cultivation, resulting in a famine situation in Bengal. When the farmers declined to cultivate indigo, they were tortured, jailed and even killed.

26. The poor farmers in Bengal



took up indigo cultivation because

- (a) the government gave them subsidies for this purpose
- (b) it was a money earning crop
- (c) they were forced to do so
- (d) this was the only crop that would grow in this region

27. British settlers bought land in Bengal in order to

- (a) cultivate indigo
- (b) grow crops for the poor farmers
- (c) own agricultural property
- (d) settle down in India

28. Indigo export was profitable for the British settlers because

- (a) labour was cheap
- (b) they had no competitors
- (c) the land was fertile
- (d) they could oppress the farmers

### Passage III

A French general was once conducting his army through a very difficult pass in a range of high mountains. He exhorted his soldiers to bear patiently the fatigues of the march. "It is easy for you to talk", muttered one of the soldiers near him to his companions; "you are mounted on a fine horse, but we poor wretches have to tramp on foot". The general overheard the remark, and insisted on the discontented soldier taking his place, but scarcely had he mounted than a shot from the mountain-side struck and killed him.

29. The passage describes

- (a) a revolt in the army
- (b) an altercation with the general
- (c) quarrelling soldiers
- (d) a fateful event

30. Which one of the following statements about the French general is correct?

- (a) He gave his horse to the soldier
- (b) He shot the soldier for grumbling
- (c) He gave a warning to the soldier
- (d) He did not hear the remark of the soldier

31. The French general described in the passage was:

- (a) cruel
- (b) selfish
- (c) patient
- (d) considerate

### Passage IV

The first day out we met our first rhino, two of them, and I had the fright of my life. The pair had got our

scent before we spotted them, and being bad tempered beasts, they rushed towards where they thought we were. Now it just happened that we were about fifty yards to one side of where they expected to find us—which was just as well, for I must say I did not like their look. As they thundered past, we crouched low and let them go. It did not strike me as a good opportunity for rhino photography. Any how I was much too frightened to have been able to hold the camera steady.

32. From the above passage it appears that rhinos

- (a) run away when they see human beings
- (b) rush to attack when they smell human scent
- (c) hide under the bushes at the sight of human beings
- (d) stand still if they are not attacked

33. When the author saw a rhino for the first time,

- (a) he was frightened
- (b) he was charmed
- (c) its ugliness shocked him
- (d) he took cover

34. The word 'strike' in the passage means

- (a) stop work
- (b) dig out
- (c) hit
- (d) occur to

### ORDERING OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE

(Items 35 to 39)

#### Directions:

In each of the items 35-39, there is a sentence of which some parts have been jumbled up. You are required to re-arrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S to produce the correct sentence. Choose the proper sequence and mark in your Answer Sheet accordingly.

Example 'Z'

Z. It is well-known that

- (P) the effect
- (Q) is very bad
- (R) on children
- (S) of cinema.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PSRQ
- (b) SPQR
- (c) SRPQ
- (d) QSPR

Explanation: The proper way of writing the sentence is 'It is well-known that the effect of cinema on children is very bad.' This is indicated by the sequence PSRQ and so 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 35 to 39.

35. This is a letter

- (P) from a young lady
- (Q) who was lately wounded in a

duel

(R) written in the most passionate terms,

(S) wherein she laments the misfortune of a gentleman.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) RPSQ
- (b) PRSQ
- (c) RPQS
- (d) PQRS

36. It is

(P) for a man

(Q) when he accompanies a lady

(R) an accepted custom

(S) to open the door.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PSQR
- (b) PSRQ
- (c) RPSQ
- (d) RPQS

37. We

(P) agreed with

(Q) the manner in which you said it

(R) but we objected to

(S) what you said.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PSQR
- (b) SPQR
- (c) SPRQ
- (d) PSRQ

38. The natives of the Caribbean

(P) regarded the papaya

(Q) because of its ability

(R) as a magic tree

(S) to keep them healthy.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PRQS
- (b) RPQS
- (c) PRSQ
- (d) RPSQ

39. The Indian woman wants

(P) in a male dominated society

(Q) as an equal partner

(R) and it is not too much to demand

(S) her rightful place.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) SRPQ
- (b) RSQP
- (c) SQPR
- (d) QPSR

### RECONSTRUCTING PASSAGE

(Items 40 to 44)

#### Directions:

In items 40 to 44, there are six sentences marked S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>6</sub>, P, Q, R, S. The positions of S<sub>1</sub> and S<sub>6</sub> are fixed. You are required to choose one of the four alternatives given below every passage which would be the most logical sequence of the sentences in the passage.

Mark your response on the Answer Sheet at the appropriate space.

Example X has been solved for you.

Example X:

S<sub>1</sub>: A poor peasant went off early one morning to plough, taking with him for his breakfast a piece of bread.

S<sub>6</sub>: He lifted the coat, but the bread was gone!

P: After a while, when his horse

was tired and he was hungry, the peasant stopped ploughing.

Q: He hid it under a bush and started work.

R: He went to get his coat and his breakfast.

S: He got his plough ready and put his coat round the bread.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) SQPR (b) QPRS  
(c) PRSQ (d) RSQP

Explanation: The proper sequence in this Example is: SQPR which is marked (a). Therefore 'a' is the correct answer.

Now attempt items 40 to 44.

40. S1: Plastic containers are being used more and more to package soft drinks, milk, oil, fruit juices, ketchup, etc.

S6: Yet as plastics do not decompose by bacteria or naturally in the air, they are a big threat to the environment.

P: Most people think that this is the right thing to do, as it is economical.

Q: Plastic containers are cheap and light.

R: It is easier to transport materials packaged in them than in glass bottles.

S: They also involve the least transport costs.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) PQRS (b) PQSR  
(c) QRSP (d) QSPR

41. S1: A farmer was taking the grist to the mill in sacks.

S6: But the farmer saw that he was none other than the nobleman.

P: It was too heavy for him to lift.

Q: On the way the horse stumbled, and one of the sacks fell to the ground.

R: Presently he saw a rider coming towards him.

S: He stood waiting till he found somebody to help him.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) QPRS (b) PRQS  
(c) PSQR (d) QPSR

42. S1: He could not rise.

S6: It was colder than usual.

P: All at once, in the distance, he heard an elephant trumpet.

Q: He tried again with all his might, but to no use.

R: The next moment he was on his feet.

S: He stepped into the river.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) QPRS (b) PQSR  
(c) QPSR (d) PRQS

43. S1: We do not know whether the machines are the masters or we are.

S6: And if they don't get their meals when they expect them, they will just refuse to work.

P: They must be given or rather 'fed' with coal and given petrol to drink from time to time.

Q: Already man spends most of his time looking after and waiting upon them.

R: Yet he has grown so dependent on them that they have almost become the masters now.

S: It is very true that they were made for the sole purpose of being man's servants.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) RSQP (b) RSPQ  
(c) SPQR (d) SRQP

44. S1: The 'age of computers' is considered to have begun in 1946.

S6: And now it is difficult to find a field where computers are not used.

P: Those early computers were huge and heavy affairs, with problems of speed and size.

Q: It was only with the introduction of electronics that the computers really came of age.

R: But computers were in use long before that.

S: They had several rotating shafts and gears which almost always doomed them to slow operation.

The proper sequence should be

- (a) RPQS (b) PRSQ  
(c) RPSQ (d) PRQS

## SELECTING WORDS

(Items 45 to 50)

In the following sentences at certain points you are given a choice of three words—one of which is most appropriate. Choose the best word out of the three. Mark the letter, viz., 'a', 'b' or 'c' relating to this word on your Answer Sheet. Examples 'K' and 'L' have been solved for you.

K. The river has been

- (a) rising (b) raising  
(c) arising

all night.

L. We built the raft

- (a) too strong  
(b) very strong  
(c) strong enough

to hold us.

Out of the list given in 'K' only "rising" is the correct answer because a river cannot be raised, it rises on its own. So 'a' is the correct answer for

item 'K'. For item 'L' 'c' is the correct answer. In order to solve these items you have to first read the whole passage and then decide what the most appropriate word is.

Now attempt items 45 to 50.

When I got off the plane at Heathrow airport, I had the first taste of English hospitality. For I was immediately bounded off to a hospital. No, not because I was

45. (a) ill (b) senseless  
(c) wicked

but to find out whether I was. And truth to say, it wasn't

46. (a) materially  
(b) actually  
(c) factually

a hospital, but only the sick bay at the airport. Someone at the immigration counter had taken it into his

47. (a) mind (b) judgement  
(c) head

that I was too thin and an instant X-ray would be in order. Needless to say, I much

48. (a) respected (b) resented  
(c) liked

this extra attention. I would much rather have walked away like the other passengers. The X-ray

49. (a) took (b) extracted  
(c) demanded

an extra half-hour of my time. This did not

50. (a) excite (b) please  
(c) annoy

me as much as the discovery that the famous British sense of humour was by no means ubiquitous.

## ANSWERS

1. (c) 'it is worth doing well'.
2. (b) 'returned home'.
3. (c) 'and there is no trouble'.
4. (a) 'considering these facts'.
5. (c) 'will never feel at home anywhere else in the world'.
6. (b) 'he had left'.
7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (b)
10. (c) 11. (c) 12. (a)
13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (a)
16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (a)
19. (b) 20. (d) 21. (d)
22. (a) 23. (b) 24. (c)
25. (c) 26. (c) 27. (a)
28. (b) 29. (d) 30. (a)
31. (d) 32. (b) 33. (a)
34. (d) 35. (b) 36. (c)
37. (d) 38. (a) 39. (c)
40. (a) 41. (d) 42. (a)
43. (d) 44. (c) 45. (a)
46. (b) 47. (c) 48. (b)
49. (a) 50. (c)

## VOCABULARY

# Improve Your Word Power

1. **affront:** (a) touch (b) insult (c) defend (d) define.
2. **belated:** (a) too late (b) too hot (c) too good (d) too smart.
3. **commiserate:** (a) ignore (b) acknowledge (c) condole (d) compare.
4. **debacle:** (a) failure (b) faith (c) survival (d) participation.
5. **expostulate:** (a) wander (b) surprise (c) shock (d) protest.
6. **fumble:** (a) ride (b) handle (c) drive (d) swim.
7. **galore:** (a) innocence (b) jealousy (c) abundance (d) preparation.
8. **hoity-toity:** (a) polite (b) humble (c) deceptive (d) haughty.
9. **iniquity:** (a) immorality (b) charity (c) freedom (d) consolation.
10. **jeremaid:** (a) story of adventures (b) description of old age (c) story of troubles (d) change of seasons.
11. **lethal:** (a) charming (b) deadly (c) interesting (d) lazy.
12. **meddle:** (a) interfere (b) exhaust (c) burn (d) bury.
13. **necromancy:** (a) journey (b) operation (c) narration (d) enchantment.
14. **poppy-cock:** (a) description (b) wisdom (c) non-sense (d) debate.
15. **queasy:** (a) comfortable (b) uneasy (c) unholy (d) supernatural.
16. **rabble:** (a) mob (b) library (c) book-shop (d) dispensary.
17. **shilly-shally:** (a) meditate (b) advise (c) educate (d) hesitate.
18. **tentative:** (a) fast (b) slow (c) intelligent (d) provisional.
19. **verve:** (a) tolerance (b) violence (c) enthusiasm (d) pride.
20. **whimper:** (a) cry softly (b) protest loud (c) work hard (d) suffer alone.

## ANSWERS

1. **affront:** (b) insult, offend.  
—The old man felt deeply *affronted* at the rude behaviour of his grand-children.
2. **belated:** (a) too late, very late.  
—The relief measures announced by the government were not only *belated* but also very inadequate.
3. **commiserate:** (c) condole, pity.  
—A large number of friends and relatives visited her house to *commiserate* with her on the death of her only son.
4. **debacle:** (a) failure, fiasco.  
—His first performance was a *debacle*: the audience hooted him off the stage.
5. **expostulate:** (d) protest, argue, reason.  
—They *expostulated* with him about the risks involved in his plan.

6. **fumble:** (b) handle or touch (awkwardly/nervously).  
—To the dismay of the spectators, the player in the field *fumbled* the ball and then dropped it.
7. **galore:** (c) abundance, sufficiency.  
—The dog's loyalty to his master is proverbial and there are stories *galore* about the canine's noble qualities.
8. **hoity-toity:** (d) haughty.  
—A *hoity-toity* person is seldom welcomed in a social get-together.
9. **iniquity:** (a) immorality, wickedness.  
—He regards the city as a place where all forms of *iniquity* are practised.
10. **jeremaid:** (c) story of troubles or misfortunes.  
—The biography of the poet lays bare the *jeremaid* that he had to suffer as a result of his beliefs.
11. **lethal:** (b) deadly, fatal.  
—There can be no real and lasting peace in the world unless *lethal* weapons of all types are destroyed within the stipulated period.
12. **meddle:** (a) interfere, tamper.  
—He is in the habit of *meddling* in the affairs of others: therefore nobody likes him.
13. **necromancy:** (d) enchantment, magic.  
—He claims that he can communicate with the dead through the practice of *necromancy*.
14. **poppy-cock:** (c) non-sense.  
—It is a mischievous cliché or a pure *poppy-cock* to claim that our masses, though uneducated, are wise and know how to choose their rulers.
15. **queasy:** (b) uneasy, feeling sick.  
—Travelling in a bus on hilly roads makes me feel quite *queasy*.
16. **rabble:** (a) mob, crowd.  
—The clever demagogue played upon the sentiments of the *rabble* and in no time, there was complete chaos.
17. **shilly-shally:** (d) hesitate.  
—A weak character keeps on *shilly-shallying* even when the danger looms large over his head.
18. **tentative:** (d) provisional, temporary.  
—Many *tentative* proposals were considered in the meeting to break the dead-lock but all discussion proved in vain.
19. **verve:** (c) enthusiasm, vigour.  
—Since her dance performance lacked *verve*, the audience appreciation was also missing.
20. **whimper:** (a) cry softly.  
—More out of greed for crumbs than fear of their skin, the sychophants do not even *whimper* before the presiding deity.

# TEST OF REASONING—1

Which would be the next number in the series of numbers given below:

1. 37; 38; 34; 43; 27; ...  
(a) 49 (b) 54 (c) 52 (d) 48  
(e) None of these
2. 24; 27; 30; 31; 36; 35; ...  
(a) 42 (b) 40 (c) 39 (d) 45  
(e) None of these
3. 5; 7; 11; 19; ...  
(a) 26 (b) 28 (c) 31 (d) 33  
(e) None of these
4. 11; 3; 14; 17; 31; ...  
(a) 39 (b) 48 (c) 42 (d) 38  
(e) None of these
5. 32; 23; 27; 72; 94; ...  
(a) 84 (b) 49 (c) 79 (d) 68  
(e) None of these
6. 7; 16; 34; 70; ...  
(a) 142 (b) 132 (c) 104 (d) 96  
(e) None of these
7. 1; 1; 4; 8; 9; 27; ...  
(a) 32 (b) 36 (c) 18 (d) 16  
(e) None of these
8. 144; 169; 196; 225; ...  
(a) 245 (b) 248 (c) 262 (d) 256  
(e) None of these

Match the following questions with the right part:

9. 29; 37; 59; 67 (a) All the numbers are divisible by 7.
10. 81; 196; 1; 121 (b) They are prime numbers.
11. 259; 224; 154; 504 (c) They are cubes of certain numbers.
12. 125; 343; 216; 729 (d) All the numbers are divisible by 3.
13. 216; 189; 231; 252 (e) All the numbers are squares of certain numbers.

Qs. 14 to 17 are based on the series of numbers given below:

4 3 6 2 3 4 3 2 6 5 4 3 4 3 5 3 6 2 4 3 4 2 5 3 4 3 2 5 2 4 3 5

14. How many 3s are preceded by 4 but not immediately followed by 5?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6  
(e) None of these
15. Which number occurs as many times as is the value

of that number?

- (a) 2 (b) 6 (c) 4 (d) 5  
(e) None of these
16. What is the ratio between the frequency of 2 and 4?  
(a) 1:2 (b) 3:4 (c) 2:3  
(d) 1:3 (e) None of these
17. Which number has the highest frequency?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5 (e) 6

Qs. 18 to 21. Write the following alphabets as instructed and answer the questions that follow:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

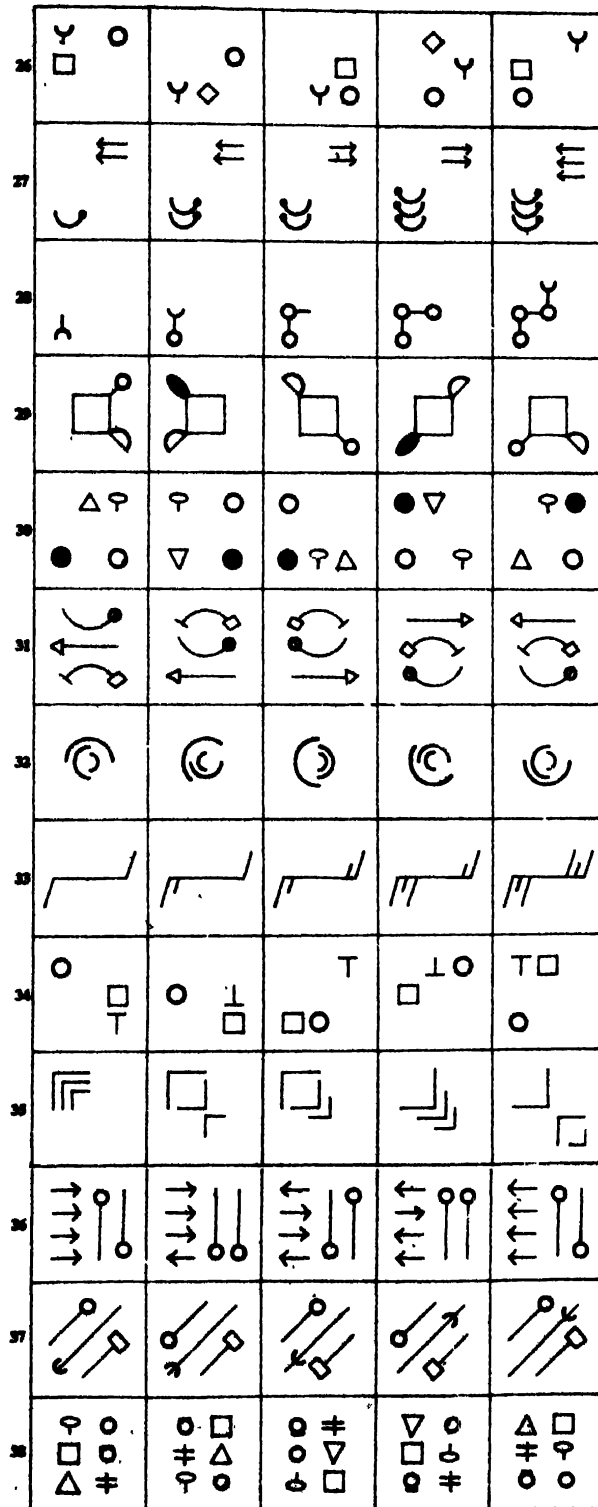
Write the first half of the alphabets leaving gaps between two letters so as to insert one letter A\_B\_C... Fill these gaps with the remaining half of the alphabets but start writing them in reverse order A\_ZB\_YC...till end. Write the one remaining letter in the end.

18. In this arrangement, 'T' is between:  
(a) G and H (b) F and G (c) H and I  
(d) I and J (e) None of these
19. Which letter is exactly in the middle of 16th letter from your right and 13th letter from your left?  
(a) H (b) V (c) U (d) F  
(e) None of these
20. 'K' is between...  
(a) R and J (b) P and O (c) P and Q  
(d) I and J (e) None of these
21. Which popular word can be formed with the 7th, 8th, 24th and 26th letters of this arrangement of letters?  
Qs. 22 to 25 are based on the word:  
'CONSOLIDATE'
22. How many sets of two letters each are as far from each other as they are in the alphabetical order?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5  
(e) None of these
23. Which letter is exactly in the middle of 6th letter from your right and 10th letter from your left?  
(a) I (b) D (c) L (d) A  
(e) None of these
24. How many letters have been used in the word?  
(a) 9 (b) 10 (c) 11 (d) 12  
(e) None of these
25. Find out the word that is different from the others in its relationship with the main word:  
(a) STALE (b) CONSOLE (c) DATES  
(d) SENATE (e) SOLID

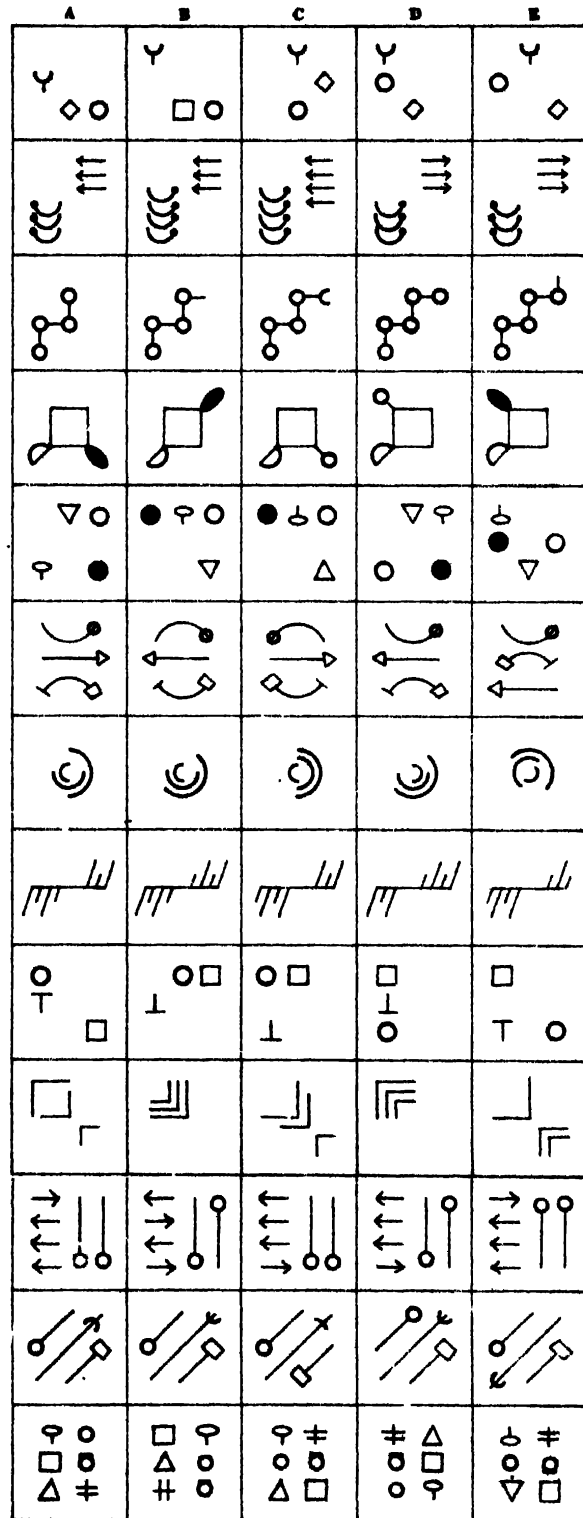
# NON-VERBAL SERIES

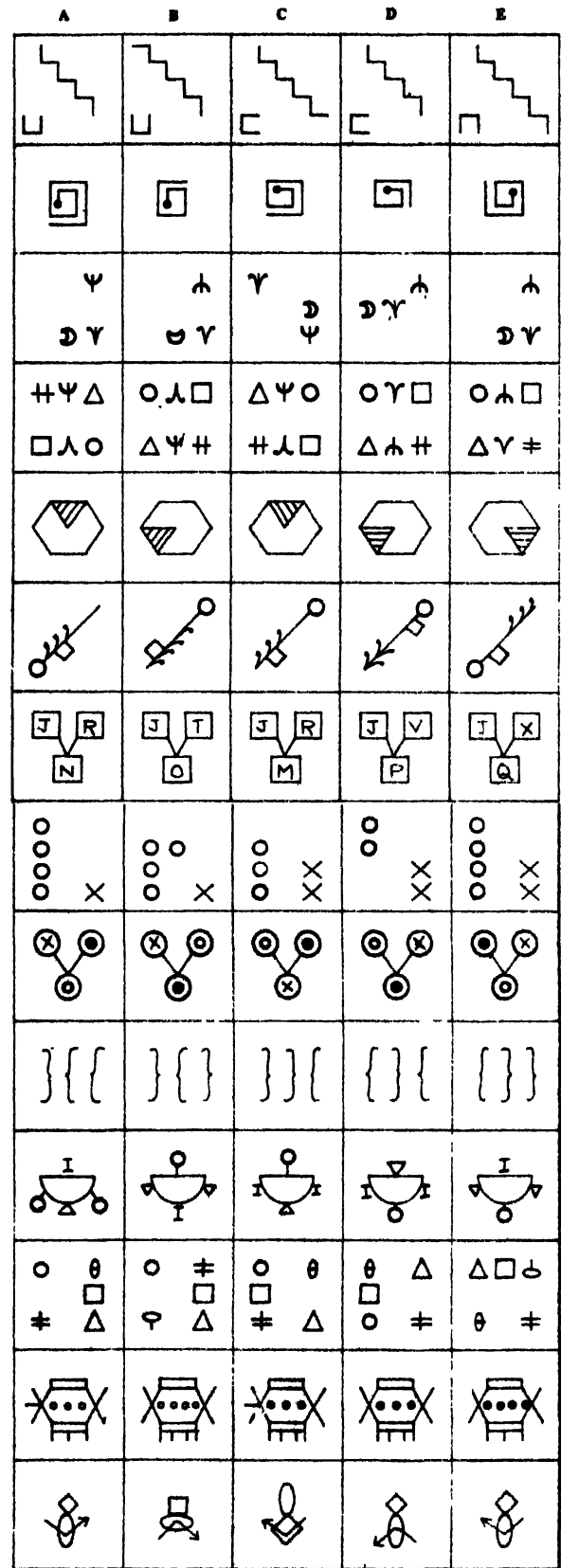
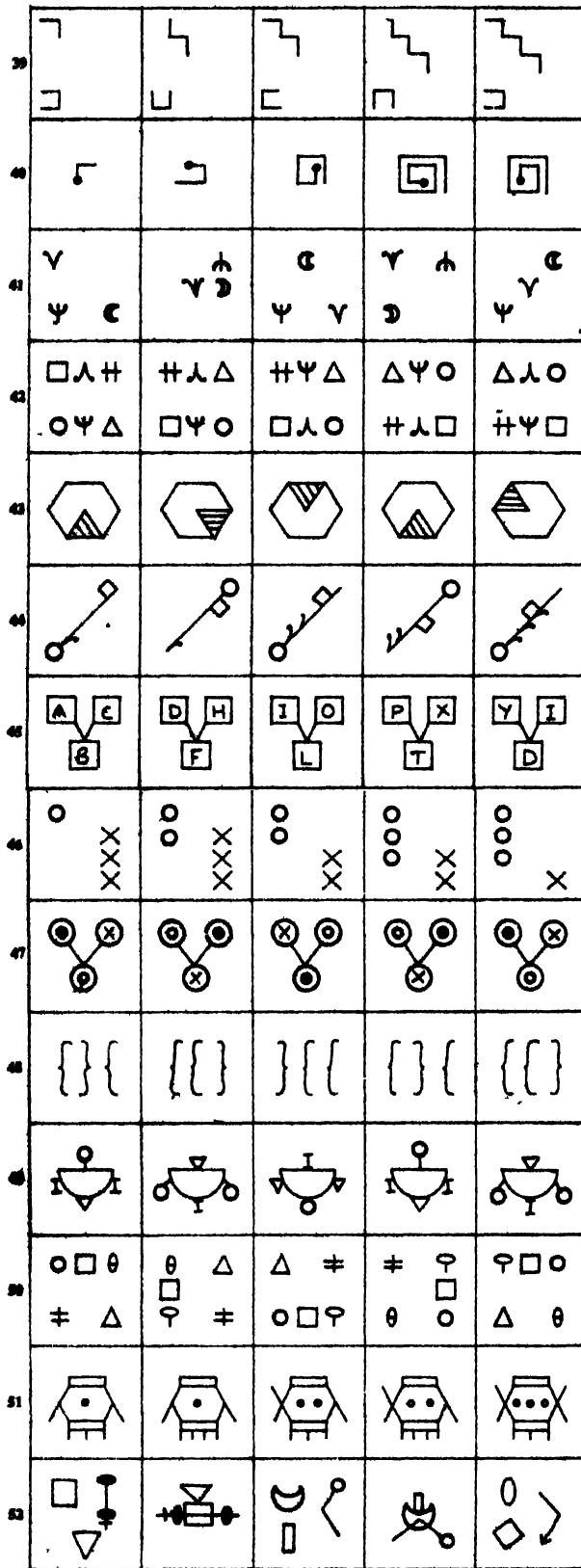
Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures would be the next one in the series of Problem Figures.

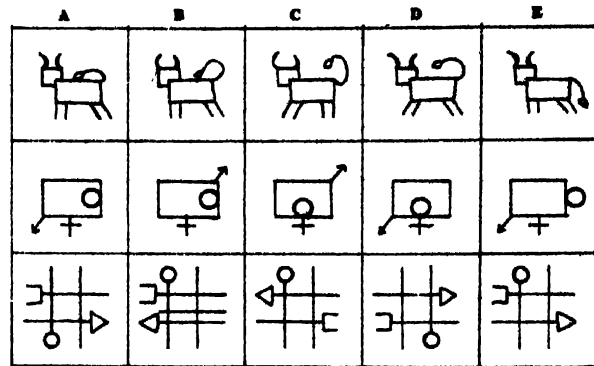
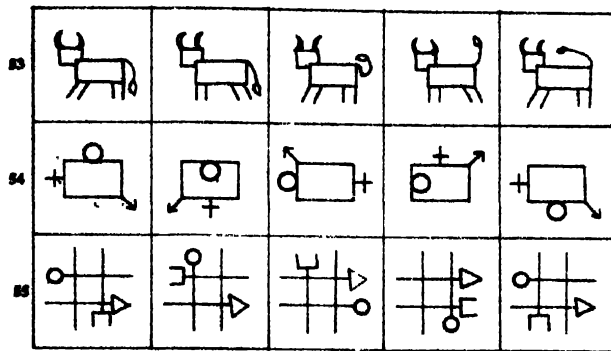
PROBLEM FIGURES



ANSWER FIGURES

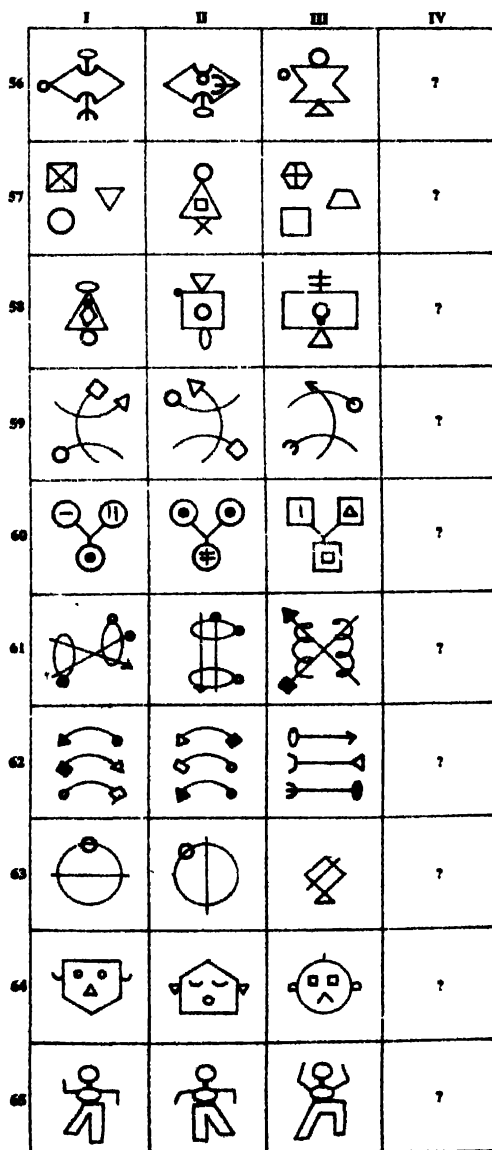




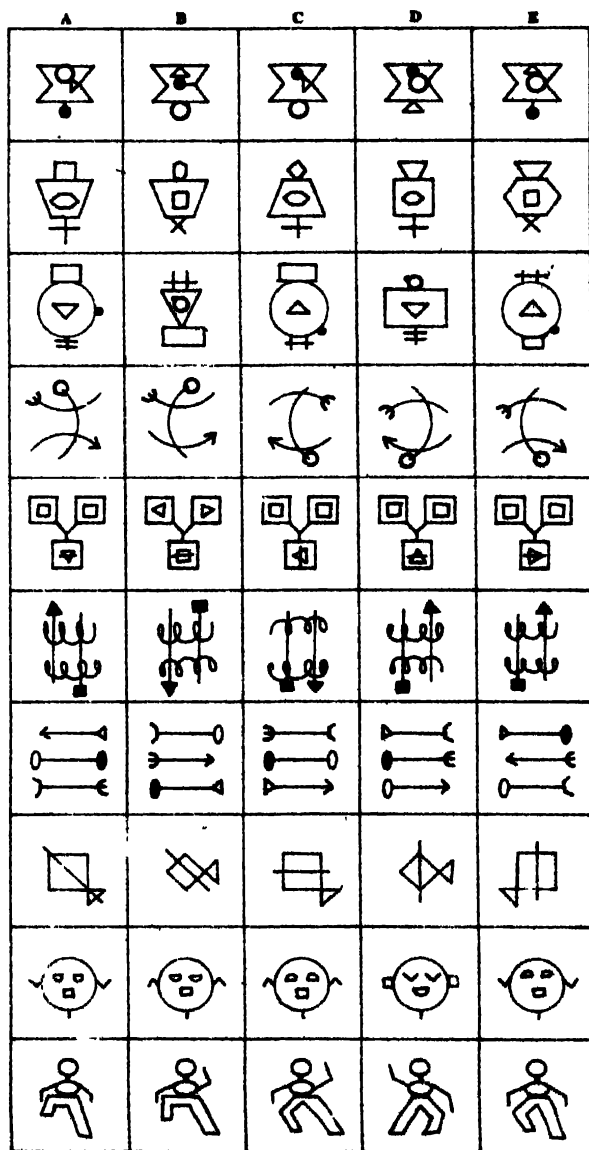


Figures I and II in questions 56 to 65 have a certain relationship. Your task is to find out from answer figures A, B, C, D and E the figure with similar relationship to figure III.

#### PROBLEM FIGURES

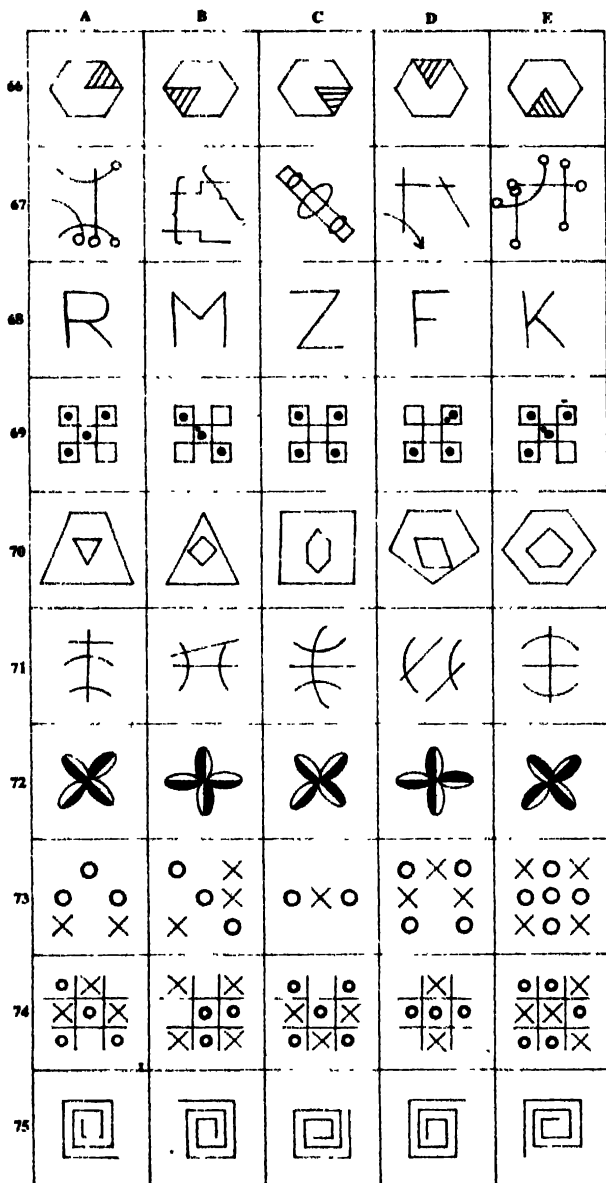


#### ANSWER FIGURES





Find the odd-man out:



### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (c) Go on adding and subtracting  $+1^2, -2^2, +3^2, -4^2, +5^2...$  to numbers by turns.
- (a) There are two series, 24; 30; 36; ...and 27; 31; 35...
- (c) The numbers have a difference of 2; 4; 8; 16. hence the number would be 35.
- (b) Go on adding numbers,  $11 + 3 = 14$ ;  $3 + 14 = 17$ ;  $14 + 17 = 31$ ;  $17 + 31 = 48$ ...
- (b) Make sets of two and reverse the digits of first number.
- (a) The next number is  $(\times 2) + 2$  of the preceding number.
- (d) The series is  $1^2, 1^3, 2^2, 2^3, 3^2, 3^3, 4^2...$

- (d) The series is  $12^2, 13^2, 14^2, 15^2, 16^2...$
- (b) 10. (e) 11. (a) 12. (c)
- (d) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (b)

17. (b)

Qs. 18 to 21. The arrangement of letters would be:

"A Z B Y C X D W E V F U G T H S I R J Q K P L O M N"

- (a) 19. (c) 20. (c) 21. DOWN
- (c) CI; ON; OT and EI
- (b) 24. (b)
- (d) All the other words have been formed with letters from the lead word, this one has an extra 'E'.

For solving the next type of questions, have the following points in view:

- Study each figure of the question individually as well as in relationship with other figures.
- The figures may move clockwise, anti-clockwise, up and down, from corner to corner or from right to left and vice-versa at a regular pace or may increase or decrease a step during the movement (Ex. 26, 30, 34, 42, 50 etc.)
- The figures may occur at regular intervals and may rotate, turn, twist or turn upside down during their movement (Ex. 29, 38, 41 etc.)
- Something may be added or dropped at regular pace (Ex. 33, 39, 40, 46, 51 etc.)
- Some figures may interchange positions in one direction and the others in opposite direction (Ex. 36, 38, 42 etc.)

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. D | 27. E | 28. B | 29. A | 30. B |
| 31. D | 32. B | 33. A | 34. B | 35. E |
| 36. C | 37. A | 38. C | 39. A | 40. D |
| 41. E | 42. B | 43. C | 44. C | 45. D |
| 46. A | 47. B | 48. A | 49. E | 50. C |
| 51. D | 52. E | 53. A | 54. C | 55. E |
| 56. C | 57. A | 58. C | 59. B | 60. E |
| 61. A | 62. D | 63. A | 64. E | 65. B |

- D. The pattern is wrong.
- B. In all the others, three figures are alike while one is different, here two are different.
- A. All the other letters have straight lines only.
- E. The total number of dots ought to be four.
- C. The difference between the inner and outer figure ought to be of one side only. This one has a difference of two, a square and a hexagon.
- C. Two figures ought to be alike and the other two should be similar too.
- E. One petal has wrong shade.
- B. In all the others, there is one dot more compared to the number of crosses.
- C. The difference in the number of dots and crosses ought to be one.
- D. The pattern is in wrong direction.

# TEST OF REASONING—II

Find the odd-man out:

1. (a) cost (b) bent (c) defy  
(d) deal (e) dirt
2. (a) August (b) January (c) September  
(d) December (e) March
3. (a) delta (b) alpha (c) theta  
(d) mete (e) sigma
4. (a) pin (b) stick (c) needle  
(d) thorn (e) nail
5. (a) roast (b) peel (c) bake  
(d) boil (e) fry
6. (a) cricket (b) tennis (c) hockey  
(d) badminton (e) billiards
7. (a) explosion (b) flood (c) avalanche  
(d) earthquake (e) hurricane
8. (a) Bhopal (b) Lucknow (c) Indore  
(d) Patna (e) Chandigarh

In questions given below, the two items mentioned in each question have a definite relationship. Your task is to find out from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair with similar relationship.

9. T.V. : entertainment.  
(a) sitar : recital (b) literature : poet  
(c) music : ear (d) woollens : warmth
10. Himalayas : Alps.  
(a) India : Mediterranean  
(b) Vishakhapatnam : Cairo  
(c) Bengal : Pakistan  
(d) Japan : Hiroshima
11. Carelessness : accident.  
(a) accident : crash (b) education : job  
(c) carefulness : confidence  
(d) tension : high blood-pressure
12. dettol : antiseptic.  
(a) mango : fruit (b) winter : cold  
(c) ointment : wound (d) tea : coffee
13. temple : worship.  
(a) water : swimming (b) road : market  
(c) court : justice (d) school : students
14. building : bricks  
(a) honey : bees (b) garden : flowers  
(c) cloth : threads (d) garage : vehicles
15. water : liquid  
(a) diamond : ring (b) beverage : water  
(c) lion : tiger (d) snake : reptile
16. boat : canoe  
(a) book : dictionary (b) horse : cart  
(c) motor-car : bicycle (d) navy : sea

Match questions 17 to 21 with (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) on the basis of similar relationship among items:

17. bulb : candle : light  
(a) tablets : injections : capsules
18. cards : chess : game  
(b) walking : jogging : fitness
19. pen : nib : ink  
(c) kitchen : pantry : room
20. rose : thorn : flower  
(d) ice-cream : milk : sugar

21. river : lake : sea

(e) music : painting : art

Words in questions 22 to 26 have been written in their coded form, each code-letter representing one letter from the word. Your task is to find out the right code for letters enclosed in box.

22. T O D A Y

(a) h (b) f (c) g (d) m (e) j

23. C A U S E

(a) m (b) q (c) n (d) v (e) z

24. T R I C K

(a) q (b) b (c) y (d) g (e) l

25. P O K E R

(a) x (b) n (c) l (d) j (e) x

26. G U A R D

(a) z (b) w (c) h (d) l (e) m

27. If, according to a certain code FRIDAY is ZBEJSG, then MORNING would be:

- (a) HJOSNP (b) HOJOSPN  
(c) NPQMJM (d) LNQMHEM  
(e) HOJSOPN

Find the odd-man out:

28. (a) JMNQ (b) TWXA (c) DGHL  
(d) PSTW (e) GJKN
29. (a) NMKH (b) WVSP (c) DCAX  
(d) HGEB (e) SRPM
30. (a) QOS (b) FDH (c) USW  
(d) IGK (e) NKP
31. (a) WD (b) RH (c) PK  
(d) YB (e) TG

Qs. 32-34. A starts from his home at 9.30 A.M. on his bicycle at a speed of 12 km. p.hr. He goes 2 km. east, turns right, goes 1 km, then turns left and goes 1 km and finally turns right and after 1 km reaches his college. His younger brother B starts at the same time at a speed of 10 km per hour. He goes 1 km south, turns left, goes 1 km, then turns right, goes 1 km and finally again turns right and reaches his school after going 1 km.

32. How far and in which direction is A's college from B's school as the crow flies?

- (a) 3 km east (b) 1 km south  
(c) 2 km west (d) 1 km east  
(e) None of these

33. How far is B's school from his home as the crow flies?

- (a) 1 km (b)  $\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2}$   
(c)  $\sqrt{1^2 + 2^2}$  (d) 2 km  
(e) None of these

34. How much more or less time did A take in reaching his college as compared to the time taken by B in reaching his school?

- (a) 1 mt less (b) 2 mts less  
(c) 1 mt more (d) 3 mts more  
(e) They reached at the same time.

Qs. 35 to 38 are based on information given below:  
Among A, B, C, D and E:

C is not as tall as D is but is heavier than B.

E is not as light as C is nor as tall as A.

B is shorter than E but is heavier than D.

A is shorter than C and heavier than E.

35. Who is the shortest among the five?

- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D (e) E

36. Who is the heaviest?

- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D (e) E

37. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) E is heavier than B. (b) C is taller than E.  
(c) D is heavier than A. (d) A is taller than B.  
(e) D is the tallest.

38. Which of the following statement is correct?

- (a) D is taller as well as heavier than B.  
(b) E is the shortest among the lot.  
(c) B is the lightest among the five.  
(d) D is the lightest as well as the tallest among the lot.  
(e) All the above are incorrect.

**Qs. 39 and 40 are based on the following information:**

Four men A, B, C and D and women W, X, Y and Z are sitting round a table facing each other.

No two men or women are sitting together.

W is to the right of B.

Y is facing X and is to the left of A.

C is to the right of Z.

39. In this arrangement, D is between:

- (a) W & Y (b) X & W  
(c) X & Z (d) W & Z  
(e) Can't be established

40. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- (a) A is between Y and Z.  
(b) W is to the left of D.  
(c) D is to the right of Y.  
(d) B is between X and W.  
(e) A is facing B.

## SYLLOGISMS

*In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the two given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.*

**Statements:**

41. 1. Some doctors are compounders.  
2. Some compounders are nurses.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some doctors are nurses.  
II. Some compounders are not doctors.  
III. No doctor is a nurse.  
IV. Every doctor is either nurse or compounder.  
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either I or III follows.  
(c) Either II or IV follows. (d) Only IV follows.  
(e) Only III follows.

**Statements:**

42. 1. All medicines are poisons.  
2. Some poisons are drugs.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some medicines are drugs.  
II. Some drugs are not poisons.  
III. Some poisons are medicines.

IV. All poisons are medicines.

- (a) Only I follows.  
(b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only III follows.  
(d) Only IV follows.  
(e) Either I or III follows.

**Statements:**

43. 1. Some drinks are solids.  
2. All solids are heavy.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some drinks are heavy.  
II. Some drinks are not heavy.  
III. All heavy articles are solids.  
IV. Some solids are light.  
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either I or II follows.  
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

**Statements:**

44. 1. All boats are trains.  
2. All trains are cars.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some trains are neither boats nor cars.  
II. All cars are trains.  
III. All trains are boats.  
IV. All boats are cars.  
(a) Only I follows. (b) Either III or IV follows.  
(c) Only II follows. (d) Only III follows.  
(e) Only IV follows.

**Statements:**

45. 1. All fans are heaters.  
2. All stoves are heaters.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some fans are stoves.  
II. No fan is a stove.  
III. Some heaters are not stoves.  
IV. Every heater is either fan or stove.  
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only IV follows. (d) Either III or IV follows.  
(e) Either I or II follows.

**Statements:**

46. 1. Some cups are glasses.  
2. All jugs are glasses.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some cups are not glasses.  
II. Some glasses are cups as well as jugs.  
III. All jugs are cups.  
IV. Every glass is a jug.  
(a) Only I follows.  
(b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only III follows.  
(d) Only IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

**Statements:**

47. 1. Every book is either an atlas or a dictionary.  
2. Some dictionaries are poems.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Some dictionaries are atlas.  
II. Some poems are books.  
III. No atlas is a dictionary.  
IV. Some books are neither dictionary nor atlas.  
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either I or III follows.  
(c) Only III and IV follow. (d) Only II and III follow.  
(e) None follows.

**Statements:**

48. 1. Gold is heavier than silver but lighter than brass.  
2. Brass is heavier than diamond.

**Conclusions:**

- I. Gold is heavier than diamond.  
II. Silver is lighter than diamond.  
III. Diamond is lighter than gold but heavier than silver.  
IV. Silver is heavier than gold as well as diamond.  
(a) Only I follows.  
(b) Only II follows.  
(c) Either III or IV follows.  
(d) Only IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

*In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers is correct.*

**Statement:**

49. Several notorious criminals, incarcerated in different jails for their involvement in several crimes are filing their nomination papers for the forthcoming elections.

**Assumptions:**

- I. There is no law to stop hard-core criminals from contesting in elections.  
II. Criminals, with their underhand tricks have more chances of winning than honest persons.  
III. These criminals would be released on bail for their election campaigns.  
(a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit.  
(d) Only I and III are implicit.  
(e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

50. Several women organizations as well as political outfits are protesting against the Miss World Beauty Pageant, organized by Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited.

**Assumptions:**

- I. No one wants the much beloved superstar, Amitabh Bachchan to be exposed to beauties of the world.  
II. These organizations lack aesthetic sense and are unable to appreciate beauty.  
III. All these protesters want the pageant to be organized by some other agency and not ABCL.  
(a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.  
(e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

51. Most of the doctors are blaming the unhealthy state of cleanliness for the spread of epidemics like virals and conjunctivities which took the whole country under their grip.

**Assumptions:**

- I. No area in the whole country is clear and healthy.  
II. The epidemics killed many persons.  
III. Doctors have no medicines to check and cure these diseases.  
(a) Either I or II is implicit. (b) Either II or III is implicit.  
(c) All the three are implicit.  
(d) None is implicit.  
(e) Only III is implicit.

**Statement:**

52. A newly constructed bridge over a river was washed away during the recent floods.

**Assumptions:**

- I. The flood had extra-ordinary force.  
II. The material used in constructing the bridge was not upto mark.  
III. The bridge hadn't been completed when the flood washed it away.  
(a) Only I is implicit.  
(b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Either I or II is implicit.  
(d) Only III is implicit.  
(e) Either II or III is implicit.

**Statement:**

53. According to the latest reports, maternal mortality rates in rural areas of India are among the world's highest.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Cities have more maternal facilities as compared to the rural areas.  
II. In other countries the rural areas have better maternity care centres.  
III. If proper medical care and education is provided, the chances of maternal mortality may decrease considerably.  
(a) Only I and II are implicit.  
(b) Only II and III are implicit.  
(c) Only I and III are implicit.  
(d) All the three are implicit.  
(e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

54. More and more tigers are reported to have been killed by poachers.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Poachers kill only tigers and no other animals.  
II. With growing times tigers have become physically weak and can be easily killed.  
III. Tiger-skins as well as other parts of its body fetch a very good price.  
(a) Only I is implicit.  
(b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit.  
(d) None is implicit.  
(e) Anyone of the three is implicit.

**Statement:**

55. Air crashes hardly leave any survivors.

**Assumptions:**

- I. There is no place for the travellers to jump or land safely in air.  
II. They do not carry first-aid box in aeroplanes.  
III. The speed of air-craft is very high so the crash takes place with a high intensity as well.  
(a) Only I is implicit.  
(b) Only I and III are implicit.  
(c) Only II is implicit.  
(d) All are implicit. (e) None is implicit.

**Statement:**

56. A well-known comedian is playing the role of a tragic character in his forthcoming film.

**Assumptions:**

- I. No one will like him in this new role.  
II. The film-makers had no role for a comedian in the film.

III. It is easy to be a comedian rather than a playing serious roles.

- (a) Only I is implicit.
- (b) Only II is implicit.
- (c) Only III is implicit.
- (d) Either II or III is implicit.
- (e) None is implicit.

Each of the following questions has a question and two statements marked I and II. You have to decide whether the data provided in the statements is sufficient to answer the question. Read both the statements carefully and give the answer:

- (a) if the data given in statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question while the data given in statement II alone isn't sufficient to answer the question.
- (b) if the data given in statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question while the data provided in statement I alone isn't sufficient to answer the question.
- (c) if either the data provided in statement I alone or II alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (d) if the data provided in both the statements are not sufficient to answer the question.
- (e) if the data given in both the statements are needed to answer the question.

57. How many children does Meena have?

I. Her younger son is very naughty.

II. Rakhi is her only daughter.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

58. When will Mr Agrawal get his promotion?

I. He would be promoted as soon as his immediate boss retires.

II. Mr Agrawal is assistant manager of this branch.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

59. How is Rajesh related to Subhash?

I. Subhash is his wife's brother.

II. Subhash is his son's maternal uncle.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

60. When was the Taj Mahal built?

I. It was built by Shah Jahan when his wife died.

II. Shah Jahan was Jahangir's son and Aurangzeb's father.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

61. Which is the best college in this city?

I. The government college has been showing the best results for the last decade.

II. No other college has as qualified staff and enjoys as good a reputation as the government college.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

62. Where has the officer of this office been transferred?

I. He has been transferred to the State which is famous for its golden beaches and tourist resorts.

II. All the offices of this department are functioning in the capitals of the States only.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

63. Why should one not have a charcoal fire burning in a room with all the doors and windows closed?

I. The room gets over-heated.

II. Carbon monoxide, produced by burning charcoal is a poisonous gas.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

64. Why is Udaipur known as the city of lakes?

I. No other city has more than one lake in or

around it.

II. There is a lake-palace in the city.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

Below is given a passage followed by several possible inferences which can be drawn from the facts stated in the passage. You have to examine each inference separately in the context of the passage and decide upon its degree of truth or falsity. Mark your answers:

- (a) if the inference is definitely true.
- (b) if probably true.
- (c) if doubtful as the data provided is inadequate.
- (d) if probably false.
- (e) if definitely false.

Besides being vast, Brazil is a country of mysteries and of extremes. It is difficult to know its present as it is difficult to get to know its past. Car builders and army pioneers are constantly turning up archaeological finds when building the new roads intended to open up the vast territories which are still inaccessible. No one can estimate how much unique material is lost forever in the mountains of debris excavated. And yet, archaeology is a universal hobby in Brazil though professional archaeologists are rare. The size of the country and the multiplicity of archaeological riches, most of them virtually inaccessible, mean that planned digging, classification and excavation scarcely ever take place. Even if a forgotten pre-historic town is accurately located and is accessible with the right kind of vehicle, it takes years before the money to equip a modern expedition is available.

65. Brazil has places where approach is not easy.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

66. Most of the archaeologists are rich.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

67. All the places of archaeological interest were traced through an air survey.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

68. All the Brazilians are aware of the fact that a rich pre-historic civilization prevailed in their country.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

69. The government officials take fast decision regarding expeditions interested in archaeological finds.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

70. Road builders are not much concerned about the articles and places that might be of value from archaeological point of view.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) In all the other words, the letters follow alphabetical arrangement, here 'a' follows 'e'.
2. (c) All the other months have 31 days.
3. (d) It means portion, all the others are Greek alphabets used in Mathematics.
4. (b) All the others prick.
5. (b) All the others are different forms of cooking something.
6. (d) All the others are played with balls.
7. (a) All the others are natural calamities.
8. (c) All the others are capitals of Indian States.
9. (d) One provides the other.
10. (b) Just as the first two are mountain ranges, these two are harbours.
11. (d) They have the cause and effect relationship.
12. (a) One belongs to the other category.

13. (c) One is specially meant for the other.  
 14. (c) One is made by methodical arrangement of the other.  
 15. (d) One belongs to the other general category.  
 16. (a) Just as canoe is a type of boat in the same way dictionary is a type of book.  
 17. (b) Two of the items are used for a common purpose.  
 18. (e) Two of the items belong to the third general category.  
 19. (d) Two of the items are contained in the third one.  
 20. (c) Items of both the sets are inter-related in the same way.  
 21. (a) All the three contain a common matter, water/medicine.

For solving the next set of questions, sort out common letters from words and match them with common code letters, e.g. 'T' occurs in questions 22 and 24 so does the code letter 'g', so 'g' is the code for 'T'.

22. (b) 23. (e) 24. (c) 25. (a) 26. (c)  
 27. (b) Write the letters in reverse order and code them with next letter of the alphabets.  
 28. (c) 29. (b) 30. (c) 31. (b)  
 32. (a) 33. (d)



35. (b)

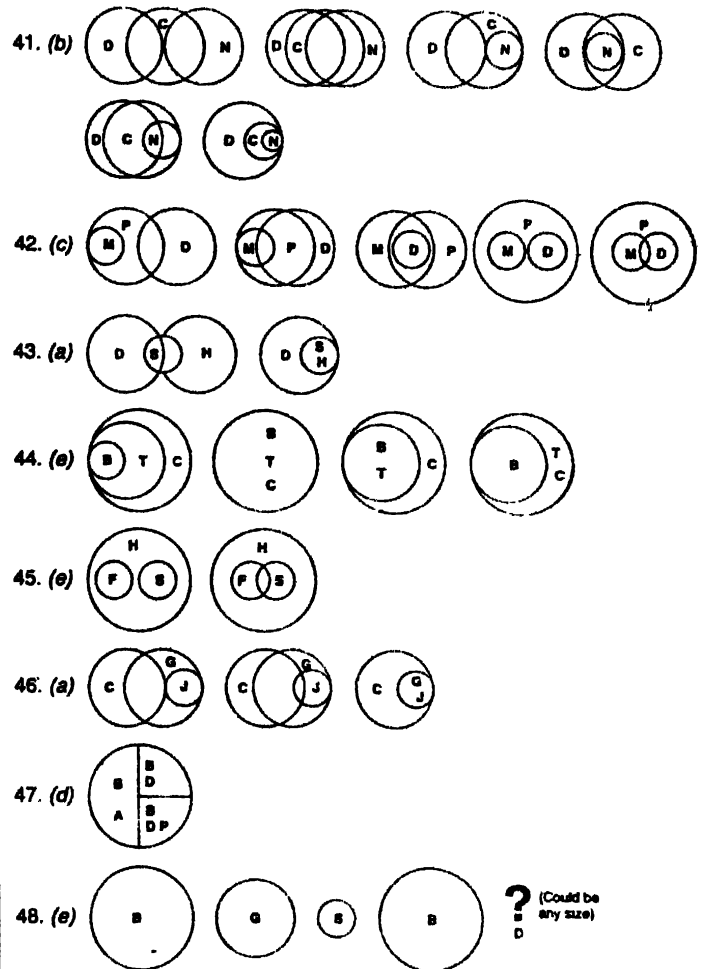
36. (a) 37. (c)



39. (a)



Qs. 41 to 48. The best way to solve these questions is by drawing sketches of all the probable situations and then reaching a fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Here are some of the examples:



49. (a) 50. (c) 51. (d) 52. (c)  
 53. (d) 54. (c) 55. (b) 56. (c)  
 57. (e) 58. (a) 59. (c) 60. (d)  
 61. (c) 62. (e) 63. (b) 64. (d)  
 65. (a) 66. (d) 67. (c) 68. (b)  
 69. (e) 70. (a)

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## LIFE & PROFILE

# Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889 at Allahabad. The first and the only male child of Motilal Nehru had all that luck could confer. However, the wealth, the status and the comfort could not rarefy the sense of loneliness in 'Nanhe' as very few children could visit his house. Fond of western style, Motilal Nehru did not send Nanhe to the local school to protect him from being spoiled by contacts with commoners. Ferdinand Brooks was the Irish tutor of his boyhood. At the age of fifteen he was admitted to the Harrow Public School, England. He then studied in Trinity College, Cambridge. His father wanted him to qualify as Barrister. In 1910 Jawaharlal joined the Inner Temple, London and in 1912 he was called to the Bar.

In 1916 he was married to Kamla Kaul. Kamla gave birth to her only child, Indira. But Kamla did not keep good health and died in 1936.

In India, life at the Bar could not thrill Jawaharlal. Accidentally, one night in 1919, he got into a railway compartment in which General Dyer was also travelling. On hearing the gruesome account of Jallianwala blood-bath, Jawaharlal was thoroughly shaken and he joined the Indian freedom movement. In 1921 during the Non-Cooperation movement he came in close contact with Mahatma Gandhi. He started his political career in the then United Province (now Uttar Pradesh) as a dedicated soldier of the Congress and within a decade rose to the highest post in the Congress hierarchy. Besides presiding over the historic Congress session at Lahore in 1929, Jawaharlal Nehru became President of Congress in 1930, 1936, 1937, 1946, 1951, 1953 and 1954. It was his dynamic role during the 1930 Civil Disobedience that won him a place second to Mahatma Gandhi in the Congress. He went to prison nine times and remained



imprisoned for a period totalling over nine years.

Jawaharlal Nehru placed crucial role in shaping the destiny of India particularly after the Government of India Act of 1935.

Though he had some differences with Gandhiji, Jawaharlal fully supported him in particular during the 1938-39 crises which witnessed an open conflict between Subhas Chandra Bose and Gandhiji. Of course, during the trial of Indian National Army Jawaharlal Nehru joined Bhulabhai Desai to provide legal defence to the INA accused and adopted the slogan 'Jai Hind'.

Jawaharlal Nehru also played a prominent role during the negotiations that preceded the transfer of power. In 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru became the Congress's nominee to the post of Vice-President of the Governor-Generals' Council. In 1947 he became the first Prime Minister of independent India and continued to remain Prime Minister till his death on May 27, 1964.

He laid emphasis on socialism, secularism and democratic processes. It was in accordance with his zeal for upholding democratic values that after 1954 he never opted to head the Indian National Congress and while showing respect to the

Kamraj plan of 1963 he even offered to resign from the office of Prime Minister.

For the development of the country he adopted the system of Five Year Plans. As votary of scientific outlook he spearheaded a move to set up National Laboratories in 1950-51. Without undermining the role of cottage industries in India, he paved the way for the establishment of large scale industries as well.

For the cause of social justice, Jawaharlal Nehru was instrumental in the codification of the Hindu Law that gave Indian women equal right of inheritance and divorce.

In foreign policy he exhibited a grand vision. As an exponent of the concept of 'one world' he regarded nationalism as a narrow ideology. He engineered the policy of non-alignment. He lent his support to suppressed humanity against colonialism by supporting freedom movements in Africa, Asia and South America. Jawaharlal was one of the most widely travelled Indians and he almost every year attended the Conferences of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. In 1955, after his return from a marathon world tour, President Dr Rajendra Prasad conferred on him the *Bharat Ratna*.

Notwithstanding the debacle of his Sino-Indian policy, it is the foreign policy propounded by Jawaharlal Nehru that continues to guide India during Congress or 'Non-Congress' rules.

Jawaharlal Nehru was a profuse writer. He is known for 'Autobiography', 'Discovery of India', 'Glimpses of World History', 'Letters from A Father to His Daughter' and 'A Bunch of Old Letters'.

Of course there are critics who attribute many failures on the national scenario to Jawaharlal Nehru, but he continues to enjoy a unique position among Indian freedom-fighters and nation builders.



## THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

# November: Before and After Independence

### Before Independence

The long array of events which occurred during November in the pre-independence history of India include organisation of Gader Party in San Francisco by Lala Hardyal with the help of Ram Chandra and Barkatulla on **November 1, 1913**; starting of Non-Brahmin Movement on **November 20, 1916**; commencement of 'Harijan Tour' from Satyagraha Ashram, Wardha by Mahatma Gandhi on **November 7, 1933**; historic disappearance of Jai Prakash Narayan on **November 9, 1942** from the Hazaribagh Jail.

In this section we shall focus on Simon Commission and First Round Table Conference, incidentally both were boycotted by the Indian National Congress.

### Simon Commission

With a view to introducing 'further reforms' the British Cabinet on **November 8, 1927** announced the setting up of a Reforms Commission under the chairmanship of John Simon. On **November 26, 1927** the Simon Commission got the 'blessings of both the Houses' in London. The Commission was to study the working of the system of government and explore the possibility of extending the scope of responsible government in India. It was an all-white Commission and did not have a single Indian citizen on its panel. The Congress boycotted the Commission. Right from the moment it landed in India, the Commission was greeted with black flags and hartals. On **October 30, 1928** in Lahore, Lala Lajpat Rai took the command of protesters and he was seriously injured during the police lathi charge. And on **November 17, 1928** Lala Lajpat Rai succumbed to his injuries.

### First RTC

Forced by the pressures that emanated from the Civil Disobedience Movement, the British decided to hold a conference

with 'prominent' Indian leaders. While thousands of Congress leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, were behind the bars, the British Indian Government nominated 'prominent' men like Sir Mirza Ismail, Maharaja of Bikaner and Akbar Hydari to represent the Indian States. The Conference was held in London from **November 15, 1930** to **January 19, 1931**. Ramsay Macdonald was then the Prime Minister of the Britain. The Conference decided in favour of having an All India Federation where, subject to some reservations, 'federal government would be responsible to the federal legislature and to give autonomy to provinces'. The first RTC proved a failure as Congress was not involved in it.

### After Independence

The epoch-making array of events of November in the after independence history of India include commissioning of Kidderpore (Calcutta) Basculat bridge on **November 5, 1960**, signing of Farakka agreement by India and Bangladesh on **November 5, 1977**; commissioning of India's highest TV tower 235 mtrs at Pectampura, New Delhi is commissioned on **November 7, 1988**. In this section we shall focus on the Indian Constitution, Redefining of India's Political Map and Rajiv's Tryst with November.

### Indian Constitution

After about 23 months of efforts, on **November 4, 1948** Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee presented a Draft Constitution to Constituent Assembly for discussions. Later on **November 3, 1949** the Second draft of the Constitution was presented to the President Dr Rajendra Prasad. And finally on **November 26, 1949** the Indian Constituent Assembly passed the Constitution at 11.10 am. The final form of the Indian Constitution had 395 Articles and 8 Schedules.

### Redefining Political Map

In the month of November, particularly on the 1st of November the political map of India was redrawn a number of times. For instance on **November 1, 1954** the French Government transferred Pondicherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam to India. Following the integration of Ajmer and Mt Abu with 'Greater Rajasthan' the present State of Rajasthan also came into being on **November 1, 1956**. The same day while Delhi became a Union Territory, Telengana area of the former Hyderabad was added to Andhra and the State of Madhya Pradesh was formed. Next year on **November 1** Tripura was declared a Union Territory. Later on **November 1, 1966** States of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh came into being.

### Rajiv's Tryst with November

November had been quite an eventful month in the life of Rajiv Gandhi. On **November 2, 1984**, after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi was unanimously elected leader of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party. Incidentally on **November 29, 1989**, following Congress-I's debacle in the elections, Rajiv Gandhi submitted his resignation as the Prime Minister. During the months of November Rajiv Gandhi initiated some very crucial projects. For instance, on **November 6, 1985**, he laid the foundation stone of the Rs 750 crore Thein Dam in the District Gurdaspur, inaugurated North Zone Culture Centre at Patiala and the same day inaugurated NAMYFEST-85, a five-day festival for the youth of non-aligned countries in New Delhi. On **November 19, 1985**, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi inaugurated the National Programme to immunize all infants against six of the most dangerous diseases of childhood, by 1990.

# Questions on Social and Economic Problems

**Q.** Recently, a Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha providing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Give arguments For and Against this provision.

**Ans.** The Bill providing for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State assemblies has been described as a historic measure. The major political parties are in favour of the provision. However, as with all new measures, this Bill has also got its pros and cons.

## Arguments For

1. The desire to grasp and exercise power is one of the first elements of political consciousness among the oppressed groups today. These groups know that the power equation has to be reversed. Earlier it was believed that inequality and justice can be redressed through information, persuasion, laws or even satyagraha. Now, such belief have been worn down by the political leadership's propensity to ignore and overcome. Therefore, the attempt is to replace those in power. Moreover, empowerment of the marginalised 'classes' or 'categories' would allow them to express their demand for justice.

2. Women are normally not chosen as candidates in politics because they are not viewed as leaders with money and muscle. The goal of those advocating reservation for women is to ensure fair representation to women's viewpoints and concerns in political and decision-making spheres.

3. Women in local bodies have shown a high level of commitment. They demonstrated their skills in politics and showed that they knew what power and politics is all about. Women are definitely ready to take their place in the power structure. The underlying hope in the effort to reserve seats for women in politics is that it will bring about a new kind of politics under a

new kind of leadership.

## Arguments Against

1. The reservation for women might not be the best way to tackle the problem of women's marginalisation in politics. It is unlikely to improve the overall quality of governance in our country. The fear is that we could end up feminising crime and corruption if women remain content to play by the rules set by men already in power.

2. The proposed Reservation Bill has some serious flaws. Reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been worked out on the basis of their proportion to the population. On the other hand, the proposed quota for women has been arbitrarily fixed at 33 per cent. If the reservations were to be done on a proportional basis, the quota would come to at least half the seats. Moreover, there is no provision for any review or enhancement. Even though there is no law prohibiting women from contesting from general constituencies, the fixed reservation proposal will ghettoise women. It is quite unlikely that any political party will be willing to field additional women candidates once special women's constituencies are earmarked. Women could be forever pitched against other women in electoral battles where they would view each other as rivals rather than as potential allies to work with.

3. Reserved constituencies for women will be selected through a draw of lots, which means they will keep changing unpredictably with every election. Thus, the incentive for women to nurse their respective constituencies will not be there because there would be no surety which constituency will be earmarked for them next. This would make political representatives even more unaccountable.

4. Today there is a large marginalisation of all decent and honest people from the world of politics because it has become a citadel of corruption and crime. In such an atmosphere, few women are willing to risk joining political parties. There would be a fear that powerful male politicians are likely to present their wives and daughters at election time for cornering the women's quota. In fact, this has already been happening.

**Q.** There have been proposals to supply foodgrains at half the issue price to the poor through PDS. Various experts have been arguing about ways to ensure that schemes meant for the poor are not usurped by the non-poor. Discuss some of the ways suggested and give arguments.

**Ans.** The government recently decided to supply foodgrains at half the issue price to the poor through PDS. This has given rise to questions regarding various alternatives of providing cheap foodgrains to the poor. One alternative is targetting the PDS, as was done in Andhra Pradesh. A second alternative is to invest in self-targetting schemes like Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme. The alternative that the government plans to adopt is to give 10 kg of foodgrains at half the issue price.

There are certain problems regarding these schemes. Take targetting for instance. The Andhra Pradesh experience of targetting has not been successful. The scheme was found to be fiscally unsustainable.

The question of giving 10 kg of foodgrains at half the issue price is also ambiguous. No report is clear about how exactly the issue price will be reduced to 50 per cent. Neither do the reports specify

"50 per cent" of what. Such a scheme would in fact increase the incentive to the middle class to get entitlement to this ration. The middle class also feels that it does not have enough subsidy.

Self-targetting schemes are better than the previous alternatives. These can provide income support as well as supplementary food stamps. With PDS the poor get just 20 paise out of every rupee spent by the government, whereas with the EGS the poor get more than 50 paise.

Poverty by definition is below subsistence consumption. At present, the poverty measures in India consider only food consumption. Thus, if the poor consume more food, the incidence of poverty goes down. A major issue then, is to increase the food consumption. This can be done in the following ways:

(a) To increase the real income of the poor—maybe through some employment generation programmes.

(b) Another way is to subsidise food consumption of the poor through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The government is more inclined towards these programmes. However there are several pitfalls in this programme. In most States, the PDS at present covers only the urban areas. Even in these areas, the scheme excludes many informal sector households such as construction labour having no fixed address. Even the poor covered under the PDS cannot derive full benefit out of it, as they are mostly daily wage earners and cannot buy full quantity of weekly, fortnightly or monthly food quota at a time.

The PDS can be an effective measure of anti-poverty programme only if it is revamped drastically to sell food daily to all poor households. Since most poor households live in rural areas PDS has to be extended to the rural areas in all States. This would not only increase its scale of operations but also enhance the budget subsidy.

Some experts have suggested that to ensure that the poor get most of the benefits of the PDS, features of "self-targetting" can be introduced. For example, larger quantities of coarse grains can be brought in under the PDS; ration shops may be located in areas with high concentration of

the poor and be withdrawn from the affluent areas and allowing smaller quantities of grain withdrawals at more frequent intervals.

(c) Given the problems that the PDS and other such schemes face, some experts have also suggested reducing the market prices of food through an appropriate pricing policy so that the poor can buy adequate food from the market without government support. Considering the per capita income, the market prices of food in India are excessively high compared to international standard. If the market prices of food declines, the poor can buy more food from the market, and this can reduce poverty substantially. This programme, combined with a judicious income generation programme for the poor, can eliminate the need for food subsidy.

**Q. Secularism is said to be a key issue on the agenda of the present government. It is also an issue on which the government would be judged by the people. Comment on the various ways that can be followed by the government to promote secularism.**

**Ans.** Besides economic policy and an effort to liberate the country from corruption, the present government has been showing some inclination towards enhancing secularism in the country. So far, the government's performance on this front has not been spectacular. There are certain steps that the government can take in order to enhance the spread of secularism.

(a) The government should evolve a code banning the use of religious appeal, especially religious prejudice, in election campaigns. Secularism has been declared to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution. This logic correctly separates politics from religion and refuses to privilege a particular religion or religious identity as more or less nationalistic or "Indian".

(b) The Narasimha Rao Government's White Papers on the events leading to the Babri Mosque's demolition has been criticised as deceptive and incomplete—hence by definition not White Papers.

Therefore, it is only reasonable to demand that all those intelligence reports,

minutes of Cabinet deliberations, notings on files by senior Home and Law Ministry and other officials, be published as genuine White Papers. This would help in pinning responsibility on those who allowed the disgraceful act of demolitions to take place.

(c) A number of committees, including the National Steering Committee on Evaluation of Textbooks headed by Bipin Chandra, have made recommendations on removing communal biases from school textbooks and imparting secular education to children. Several such reports pertaining to eight States have already been submitted to the Human Resource Development Ministry, with specific suggestions about reform. Immediate action on these reports is necessary.

(d) In the context of the present situation, it is perhaps very important to solve the Ayodhya problem. There is a need for the government to show statesmanship and attempt to solve the problem in the cleanest, most open and transparent manner possible.

It is also important that the government finds honest solutions to the Kashmir problem. A series of documents can be prepared on the Kashmir issue for wide dissemination and discussion.

**Q. A well educated, healthy work force is essential for economic growth. Discuss some of the steps that can be taken to build a better work force.**

**Ans.** India, with its large population base, has a strong foundation to build upon. Although Central planning has helped in achieving access to basic education and health care, these need to be made adjustable to the ever changing demands of freely competitive markets. Reform of education is needed to give workers more transferable, marketable skills and to develop informed citizens, capable of participating actively in civil society. It is also essential to reform the health care system to raise life expectancy and to reduce the burden of disease and injury, contributing both to productivity and the quality of life. Thus the idea is to reshape health care and education to meet the demands of a new economic system without throwing away

the achievements of the old.

**Education:** Reforms for this particular sphere have been highlighted in the World Development Report 1996 also. It is felt that reforms are essential in three principal areas: finance, content and delivery.

Financing of education has to be such that it provides incentives for efficiency. Public funds can be allocated for training and higher education on the basis for enrolment, to make the system more responsive to demand. Education financing needs to be reformed because it supports more efficient management of schools and because it can improve the content of education by empowering consumers to demand the education and training they need.

Reform of content implies setting up new curricula, especially in subjects like economics and history. This is important to produce a more critical type of learning and to adjust schooling to changing needs and values. For this, new textbooks are needed, and encouragement of a competitive publishing industry. More than just the content, it is important to raise the accountability of educators. This involves training new teachers and retraining existing ones. Performance incentives for teachers and local administrators have to be strengthened.

Delivery improvement involves decentralization to make education more responsive to local needs and diversification of supply to promote competition and thus efficiency.

**Health Care:** In almost all countries, health care consumes a significant share of resources. Therefore, the issue of access to quality care is of great importance. Health care policy mainly involves equitable access to health care, producing the quantity, quality and mix of health interventions (including preventive care and health education) that bring improvements in health.

Causes of health outcomes are not limited to the health sector only. People are influenced by income, lifestyle, environmental pollution, occupational risks and quality of available health care. Of these, income and lifestyle are the most important. Lifestyle choices are the key to im-

proving health. Policies to reduce risk factors include taxation to discourage consumption of alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy foods, removal of food subsidies that distort food prices in favour of unhealthy diets and legislation on alcohol, tobacco advertising and food labeling.

Policy-makers need to devise a strategy to allow the health sector to grow in a controlled way, both to prevent an explosion in health spending and to ease efforts to adjust the overall mix of medical activities towards preventive and basic health care.

Health finance is another important factor in health care. It is important to ensure that means used to finance health care do not clash with the means of delivery. Three different points need to be given importance. First, access and cost containment have to be assisted by a substantial reliance on public rather than private funding. Second, health services can be delivered effectively by private providers for profit, by private non-profit providers (often NGOs) by the public sector, or by a combination of these. Third, different approaches to funding and different types of delivery should not be mixed indiscriminately. In the health sector, policy making needs to focus on better allocation of resources: expenditures should be shifted from specialized services towards preventive care and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

**Q. With the changing economic scenario in the country, there is an increasing need for banking reforms. What can the government do to initiate these reforms?**

**Ans.** There are a number of changes taking place in the economy of India as well as other countries. Banking forms an important part of the infrastructural facilities of a country and it is important to make sure that the banking system keeps in line with other developments. The government can take various steps to initiate banking reforms. First and foremost, it is important to develop the Central bank into an institution that independently formulates and conducts monetary policy. Greater Central bank independence, including the right not

to finance the government and to set interest rates without government interference helps in attaining lower inflation and more effective monetary policy.

Second, the weaknesses of commercial banks need to be addressed. This could involve an approach based on either entry of new banks, rehabilitation of existing banks or (usually) some combination of the two. The new entry approach involves the entry of a relatively large number of new banks, the break up and privatization of State banks, and in some cases the liquidation of old banks.

Third, problem banks should be dealt with quickly. Too often, troubled banks continue to receive normal or even preferential treatment. It is important to stop financial flow to these insolvent banks and also, to keep changing management frequently.

Fourth, effective supervision should be developed along with prudent regulation. A fully independent and market-oriented supervisory agency should be developed. New entry should be screened and disclosures should be improved.

Fifth, the State-owned banks should be used for well-designed, focused, credit programmes of relatively limited duration. They should focus more on infrastructure development.

Sixth, creating cooperative financial institutions can help in developing self-sustaining rural finance. Credit cooperatives have many strengths—active peer monitoring of borrowers, close links with clients and an emphasis on mobilization of savings.

Perhaps the best approach to banking reform for many countries, particularly the less advanced ones, could be to restrict the activities of State banks while a new or parallel banking system develops. Governments should encourage banks to be more self-reliant in building capital—for example, through more generous loan-loss provision rules—and improve the general framework for debt collection. It is also important to develop non-banking financial intermediaries as well as capital markets, for smooth functioning of the banking system.



Anjali Poovaiah studies in class 9 at Vijaya High School, Bangalore. Her hobbies are reading and writing.

*Looking at the present situation. I think that Indians have misused their freedom. Did we escape from the exploitative hands of an alien nation to land in the clutches of our leaders? We are today one of the most corrupted nations. I feel ashamed when I see what independence has meant for most of us. Today, I am not proud to be an Indian; on the contrary, I do not even feel like looking at the newspaper which has only scandals to offer.*

*I would like India to be technologically advanced having a truly casteless society. But this can come about only with dedication and perseverance. If I had a chance, I would take decisions which our leaders have ignored. Only with revolutionary changes can India be brought on the path to prosperity*

*We are the seeds of tomorrow. We have to strive to protect our independence. If we rely on our leaders, we will lose our very independence, which we love so much.*



Ritesh Mago is doing his graduation from Chandigarh. His hobbies are reading, making friends and travelling.

*None else, but a bird put into a golden cage, can best define what independence means. Today, we are entering the 50th year of independence but in my opinion we are still not free in the true sense of the word. There are many social evils which continue to dominate us and stand in our way of becoming a truly free country. Foreign powers will take advantage of the situation and in fact a neo-colonialism has already crept in, at least in the thinking of our elites.*

*We cannot say that our country has not progressed, but there is still much to be done. We have to free the country from the many ills it still has and move towards real freedom.*

## Voices

*Our readers responded with fervour to tell us what they felt about their*

*country. From Tamil Nadu to Darjeeling to Himachal Pradesh, we heard diverse voices. From school students to people who are working.*

*Some are hopeful, while some are pessimistic. Either way, these are the voices of our youth, the future citizens of India. There is indeed a sincere consensus of putting many things right and we hope that the desire gets sharper as you grow up.*

*We publish here some of the notable view points received from readers in response to our competition on India's Fiftieth Year*



Bratah Choudhury lives in Chinsurah in Hooghly district of West Bengal. She has done her M.Sc. in Physics and is currently doing B.Ed. from Chander nagore. She likes reading, quizzing and debating.

*The last 50 years has seen the burial of many dreams as also many things to be proud of. But it is difficult to say whether I am proud of my country or not. Yes, we have made remarkable progress, but on the other hand, corruption that has crept in every sphere of life makes me very depressed.*

*My dream is to live in a country "where the mind is without fear". For that, we do not have to be soft but take tough decisions, both personally and as a nation.*

*If I get a chance, I will introduce a code of ethics for politicians. I will also ensure all round development rather than development of the rich only.*



Mitesh L. Chudasama is a student of C.A. Intermediate from Junagadh in Gujarat.

*The dream our people saw at the time of independence has not come true. We had thought of a strong, independent and prosperous India but we have not been able to achieve that fully. While our leaders are busy in scams, we have become dependent on other countries for money and technology.*

*We have to restructure our country. The youth is the real strength of the country and we can surely affect a positive change in thinking and outlook of our people.*



M. Haarii Venkatesh studies in class 8 in Shencottah in Tamil Nadu.

*Independence to me means satisfying basic needs of the majority of the population. Equal educational opportunities based on merit should be followed. At the same time, if hard work is rewarded, we may even have a progressive industry and trade. For that, the hold of government officials has to decline. We should free people's spirit to enable them to set up industries and enterprises. What does the government have to do in such matters anyway? If government controls are reduced, people will surely begin to think creatively and contribute in scientific developments. We can attain true freedom only by such methods.*



Reena Sharma, who lives in Sonapat in Haryana, is doing her B.Com from Hindu Girls College.

*I am proud of my country. We may be poor and in many respects backward, but we also have many achievements to our credit.*

*My dream is to do a wonderful and graceful act for my country. If each one of us can do such a thing, our country can become one of the greatest in the world. But our*

young people suffer from a crisis of confidence. We do not know anymore whom to trust. The scandals have sapped our energy and confidence. To restore faith, we have to cleanse the government. If we can inculcate a work culture into the rich culture that we have, there is no reason why the country will remain backward. What is needed is the freedom to excel in any field of one's choice. The country's freedom will be maintained if each one of us does his best.



Bobby Mathews is an engineering graduate from Trivandrum. He is doing a computer course and plans to do MBA for which he is preparing.

We are free but we still have the label of being a 'developing country'. Democracy is floundering, since power brokers have hijacked it. Politics has become a business. While slowly advancing in different fields, India is declining in many others, including our culture and tradition.

I dream of an India which is not under-developed. I will work for decreasing illiteracy and encouraging self-employment. Most of all, I will encourage sports so that our people have a healthy attitude. With so many people, we can surely achieve much in international sports.

We must have faith in ourselves inspite of conflicting signals from our leaders. All of us must work hard and do one's individual best. That is the only way of making our country truly great.



Anamika Singh is in class 12 and lives in Kanpur. She aspires to become an IAS officer.

For centuries, India lived in servitude, but none could suppress our feelings for our country. Our freedom was, thus, a great event. But after 50 years, many of our dreams lie in shambles. Dubious people have entered politics and stealthily steered India into a whirlpool of scams and scandals. Corruption, over-population and nepotism have formed a vicious circle. We have to

break out of this circle.

Fortunately there is a ray of hope. We have people like Kiran Bedi and T.N. Seshan, who have shown that our spirit is still not dead. Though the process of the law is slow, sinners ultimately find their nemesis. I would say that as long as freedom reigns and men are free to think and act, we have hope in making India a truly great nation.



Subhash N. Chaudhari, from Nagpur, holds a diploma in Engineering and works with the LIC. He is also preparing for the civil services examination.

As Indians, we can no longer hold our heads high and preach high moral values, as ours is one of the most corrupt nations of the world. Our founding fathers had lofty ideals but we have betrayed their trust. Now, we have to concentrate on improving our moral standards. We should give up our meekness, since 'a society of sheep gets, in time, a government of wolves'.

As India enters the fiftieth year of independence, I am unable to have any dreams for the country, as the decadence all round gives me sleepless nights. But there is one expectation: that we may not repeat the mistakes of the last 49 years. If as a nation we have lost our soul, let us try to redeem it.



Paramita Palit is in class 12 and lives in Bhubaneswar. Her hobbies are reading, bird watching and dancing.

Being an Indian, I am proud of its rich heritage and culture. Apart from this, there are many things which are wrong, which have to be improved. For example, I would like to cleanse India of the evils plaguing her. The gap between the haves and the have-nots has to be bridged by ushering in equal opportunities. For this, the reservation policy, which has become an insidious tool in the hands of politicians, has to be abolished. Corrupt practices also have to be curbed.

I would like my country to be self-sufficient and strong. But our present policies are unlikely to be of any help. There

has to be a radical change in thinking from the opportunistic thinking of today. Obviously, this change cannot come overnight. But, given the burning desire of our youth, I am sure that this change will come. Only then will the dreams of our founding fathers be realised.



M.S. Bhatia teaches English in Dooki village in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh

To be an Indian is a matter of pride for all of us. People of all castes and religions live here in a democratic and secular society. Both peace and progress march side by side in our country.

There is no dearth of talent in India, but the crying need is to channelise it in a proper direction with radical changes. Job oriented education should be universalised. Work culture, rather than subsidy and reservation culture, must be encouraged.

On the whole, the Indian tricolour should be raised high in every field of endeavour. A surgery is required as far as corrupt bureaucrats and politicians are concerned. Inspite of these self-serving individuals, our country has done very well and will continue to do well against all odds.



Pamela Poulse is a poetess from Delhi. She is currently doing a creative writing course and a diploma in journalism.

In our golden jubilee year, we might ponder why we do not recall Mahatma Gandhi or other great people. Why do we not have visionaries like Nehru or Tagore? On the other hand, we treat August 15 as another holiday. Is ours a cynical generation, bored and unable to do anything? Or are we simply realists, conditioned by our unsavoury times, rightly critical of post-independent India?

We are hobbling to the 21st century, overburdened with a huge population, ranked the third most corrupt country in the world. Betrayed by our obnoxious leaders, saddened by the national atrophy of conscience and

## 50th Year of India's Independence

character. We have to awake the sleeping giant so that our country may recover some of its pre-independence fervour and protect its independence.



Dipti Adhikari studies in B.Sc. in Mumbai. Her hobby is music.

To me, being Indian means that I am representing the best traditions and culture of this great historic land. This includes the ability to excel in education, creative arts, science, technology and social service. The India of my dreams is a prosperous land, where the ugly features of poverty, corruption and socio-religious disparities do not exist. It is of a great task to realise this dream. But constant effort, especially by the young people, must be made.

If I get a chance to change matters, I would cleanse the political system, promote economic development and have programmes for the youth so that they can excel in different fields.



Rupesh Kumar studies in class 9 in St. Paul's School in Darjeeling.

To an Indian, independence means everything and he cares more for it than his own self. We have had great leaders and our land is bestowed with unmatched beauty.

What has happened to our great spirit?

Today, we are a corrupt nation and ordinary people have become mere pawns. Today, I ask my fellow Indians to stand up against corruption and violence and to make India a great nation once again. Irrespective of religion, each one of us have to join hands in this endeavour.

There are many things which have to be changed in India. Education must be made cheaper and not more expensive, as is the current trend. India's villages also have to be developed and educational facilities provided so that the majority of our people are brought into the national mainstream. This is the India of my dreams.



Prachi Prasad lives in Patna in Bihar. She is currently preparing for her Bank/MBA Entrance exams.

Being an Indian means to me:  
I-Integrated, N-Nationalist, D-Deutiful,  
I-Idealist, A-Assiduous, and N-Natural. I am proud of this great country and my dream is to see it free of misery and poverty.

Given a chance, I will enforce the spirit of the Constitution and fulfil its basic objectives. I will work for women's upliftment, since women hold the key for preventing many social evils. An educated woman educates the entire family and there are instances where women have enforced prohibition. I firmly believe that women can change the path that India has led so far—a path of poverty and ruin. It is time that women came out of the male-dominance society and assert themselves not only for their sake, but for that of the country.

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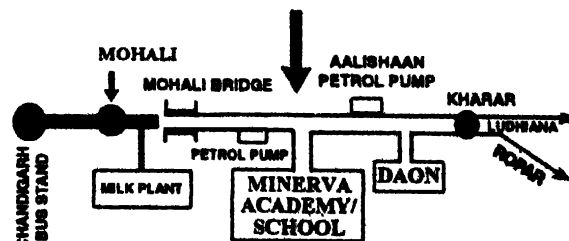
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**LOCATION : MINERVA ACADEMY**





## PARAGRAPH-WRITING

# Model Paragraphs

**"Love is blind, marriage is the eye-opener."**

Though blind in intensity, love is a boon that makes life a pleasant dream soaked in infatuation at first sight. It is true that love allows no impediments in its passion and pursuit. All appears rosy and rewarding when one is in love—rather in blind love. Life attains new meaning and motive when love directs its course and offers a feast of heavenly bliss and exquisite ecstasy. But, when love turns into marriage and attunes itself to new realities, both bitter and sweet, the dreams are broken and the rainbow gets blurred and hazy. All that was intoxicating and invigorating during love, becomes irksome and idiotic. Marriage, not only opens the eyes of the lovers to each other's follies and foibles, it also makes them ridiculous in each other's assessment and evaluation. Both husband and wife come out of the make-believe world of 'colourfulness and faultlessness' that love renders when perceptions are blinded and brain takes the back-seat and obeys the dictates of heart. It has been rightly said that love opens before us such vistas as are unreal but marriage brings to the fore all those facts of life that brook no blindness but openness, both in approach and action.

**"There is always a secret agreement between the past and the present."**

—Walter Benjamin

Though invisible, the bond between the time present and the time past is close and cohesive. Those who ignore the past and act in haste in the living present, may find the time ahead full of pitfalls and painful. To the short-sighted and shallow in understanding, the past seems irrelevant and immaterial. It is not their wisdom that guides their destiny

but mere recklessness and mental bias that lead them astray to rue and regret later on. The seed that was sown in the past has sprouted into a tree in the present. If that were not so, there would have been no great traditions, no wonders and no touching tales of service and sacrifice to inspire us today. The present-day world looks wonderful not because of any magic touch of science and technology of today but because of the countless contributions that the men of vision and virtue had made in the past. Foundations of the glamorous and glittering civilisation of today were laid in the past. Our joys and sorrows, hopes and fears are as much the result of what happened in the past as they are the offshoot of what we conceive now and co-relate it with what took place in the past—both near and distant.

**"Life without faith is an end business."**

Noel Coward

Without faith in life, all efforts in material pursuits and possessions result in dismay and despair. When the end comes, it dawns upon the man without faith in his life that he has not only wasted his energies and faculties in chasing the mirage but also played into the hands of the devil. Those who fall victims to dogmas and berate faith in God and time-tested values, meet with the dust with regrets but no relief. In order to be on the right path of concepts, and concrete actions, some sort of a prop-like faith in religion or noble traditions, is the only guarantee against depression and despondency. Having lived for the self only and served the devil within is the negation of all life and its pristine purpose. There is no denying the fact that faith heals the

troubled heart whereas non-belief or dogma hurts both the self and others. Life loses most of its charm and direction when one disowns the relevance and reverence that faith ought to occupy in life. Just as fears and phantoms are the negative or nagging forces and sap the vitality of life, similarly the absence of faith in our psyche and mental make-up brings about nothing but an atmosphere of morbidity and melancholy.

**"Flattery, formerly a vice, is now the fashion."**

— Publius Syrus

A vice becoming a virtue is the success story of flattery in all ages. Flattery, as an instrument of currying favour, has been used to the advantage of both the flatterer as well as the flattered. Something looked down upon as contemptuous in the past by the frank and free minds, has become the most wanted and potential weapon in the armoury of those who wish to remain on the right side of power-brokers-cum-power-wielders. Those who claim to be above flattery are not to be trusted, is an age-old advice that the most successful flatterers have handed down to us as the sum and substance of their perceptions and practices. Since the vice is tempting and seems tampering with truth, both the die-hards and the gullible fall easy victims to it. Those who are adept in the art of flattery and employ it with subtlety and sophistication rule the roost and run with the current, commonly known as 'fashion' of the day. In fact, flattery has always been an art—rather a performing art used most of time on the mighty and rulers, although the wise and visionaries have always considered flattery a vice, that blunts the intellect and belittles all ideas and innovations.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# The Internet

The Internet is confusing for many computer users because it is different from anything they are used to. It's not a program, it's not a piece of hardware, it's not software, it's not even a system. Instead, it is a place where you can get information, make information available (for free or for sale), and where you can meet people.

Essentially, the Internet is a network of computers that offer access to people and information. To use the Internet, you run many different programs depending on the type of information you wish to view. For example, you might use one program for mail, another program for retrieving files, and yet a third for playing fantasy games with many people at once. The kind of information freely available includes government documents, scientific data, hobbyist lists, business and personal advertising, databases and much more.

Even though the Internet is nebulous and difficult to define, its value is easy to see. If you have regular access to it, you can communicate with anyone else on the Internet quickly and easily. Almost anything you can do through the regular mail system or on the telephone can also be done on the Internet.

The Internet is open to anyone who can use a computer and a modem and can call into a computer that is on the Internet. At many universities and companies, the entire network at the location is connected to the Internet. Most people, however, access the Internet from their own computers through modems.

## History of the Internet

In the mid-1960s, computer networking was in its infancy. The most common

form of communication between two computers was manual. More advanced computer communications networks had been developed, but they were crude in comparison to today's computers. A network of three or more computers could be wired together and could communicate at low speeds, but a constant problem with early communications was that each computer had to be functioning for the network to function. Thus, if one computer was turned off for maintenance, the network would not function unless the computer was removed from the network. This made networking unreliable and difficult to manage.

The U.S. Department of Defence was an early supporter of much of the research into advanced computers and networking. A network that could be shut down by a single computer's malfunction was a major vulnerability, so the military wanted to develop a network that could survive even if one or many of the computers on the network didn't.

Around 1970, the Advanced Research Projects Agency, part of the Department of Defence, set up the first parts of what would become the Internet. There were many goals for this network, dubbed the ARPAnet, all of which were implemented and are still a part of today's Internet. Some of those goals included the following:

- \* The network would be able to run even if many of the computers or the connections between them failed.
- \* To accommodate the many different types of computers coming onto the market, the Defence Department wanted dissimilar computers to be able to exchange information smoothly. Thus, the networking method had to be usable by computers with vastly different hard-

ware configurations.

- \* The network would be capable of automatically rerouting information around non-functioning parts of the network. To compare this with a road trip, imagine you are driving from New Delhi to Bombay. If your planned route through Jaipur was blocked by an accident, you could take the highway through Agra instead. If both those routes were unavailable, you could take a third route via Kanpur. The network had to be capable of this sort of automatic rerouting.
- \* The ARPAnet was to be a network of networks, not just a network of computers. Only one computer on a network had to be connected directly to the ARPAnet hardware. Every other computer on that local network would appear to be "on" the ARPAnet and could communicate with other computers on the ARPAnet through the one connection.

The ARPAnet expanded to non-military uses in the 1970s, when universities and companies doing defence-related research were allowed to use the network. This increased use allowed the researchers, who maintained the ARPAnet, to study how growth in the number of computers and users changed the way the ARPAnet responded.

In the late 1970s, the ARPAnet was so large that the original standards would not support the rate of growth of the network. After years of research (and a fair amount of arguing), the ARPAnet switched from a technology known as Package Switch Nodes to the TCP/IP communication standard. TCP/IP is a communication protocol that defines how to send particular kinds of messages between different computers. The biggest advantage of TCP/IP was that

it allowed for almost unlimited growth in the size of the network and was easily implemented on a variety of computer hardware.

If researchers had not set down these standards, the ARPAnet would have never gotten off the ground. Once the standards were set, the ARPAnet flourished. It was used mostly with non-defence applications. People wrote programmes that allowed easier access to files on other computers, then programmes that facilitated cooperative communication between computers on the ARPAnet. Companies and universities all over the world got connected to the Internet, and many foreign governments supported connections so that their researchers could communicate with colleagues in the U.S.

The Internet, thus, is an amalgam of many networks that participate to a larger or smaller extent. The term "Internet" with a capital I became the *de facto* name for the network in the late 1980s

Today, if you have a modem, you can get on the Internet for free. If you want more reliability, you can sign on with one of the commercial providers for a small amount of money. If you are at a university or company that already has Internet access, your system administrator can probably get you on the Internet within hours

### Structure of the Internet

Creating a network of networks was a radical idea at the start. However, the Internet was so successful that the concept of internetworking, instead of having a single monolithic network, has become standard throughout the computer industry. It is useful to know a little about the structure of the Internet and how the individual user relates to it in order to see why it is amenable to rapid growth.

Any computer that uses the TCP/IP networking protocol and is physically connected to another computer on the Internet is itself on the Internet. If the computer is on an "island" (either unconnected to any computer, or only connected to computers that are not connected outside the local network), it is not on the Internet.

For many years, the NSFnet was called

the *backbone* of the Internet. The backbone was a series of cable and connecting hardware that passed data at very high speeds. Recently, the NSF stopped running the backbone, and so many networks now have high-speed connections that connect to the remnants of the NSFnet that it is impossible to specify what is the Internet backbone and what isn't. However, the concept of the backbone still exists. Basically, the backbone is the central set of high-speed links, regardless of who owns the links. This set of links is growing rapidly, and it's harder and harder to determine what is "central" on the backbone

Anything connected to the backbone, directly or indirectly, can be considered part of the Internet. As long as a single computer in one country is connected to another computer that is connected to the backbone, that country has access. It is only a matter of time before other computers in that country can connect through the first, or through additional connections. The more connections there are, the more likely it is that all users in that country can access the Internet more often. This is how the Internet has reached over 100 countries

Most computers that are on the Internet are connected to the network all the time, these computers have a persistent connection. However, many computers have only an *intermittent* link to the Internet. If you have an intermittent link, your computer calls up another computer on the Internet, uses its connection for a while, then disconnects. This works well for users who only need to send mail back and forth through the Internet and do not care about how long it takes.

Intermittent connections are much less expensive to maintain than persistent connections. If the user only needs to transfer mail once a day, the computer can do it when the phone rates are the cheapest. Even if the computer transfers mail every hour, it can save hundreds of Rupees a month by not having a persistent telephone connection. Many computer bulletin board systems (also called BBSs) use various methods of intermittent connections to keep their costs down.

Another important concept in understanding the structure of the Internet is that of *servers* and *clients*. A server is a computer that performs actions for another computer; a client is the computer that asks for the action. The range of the actions performed between a client and server is almost unlimited. The most important thing to keep in mind about the client/server relationship is that the client does not care how the server does the task, just that result is something the client wants.

For example, a client might ask a server to get a particular file. If the file is on the server computer, the server simply gets it from its disk and passes it back to the client. However, if the file is not on the server, but the server knows how to find it, the server finds the file and hands it back to the client. In both of these cases, the client got what is wanted the file. If the server can't do what the client asks, the server must know the proper way to say that it can't, and hopefully will provide some information as to why.

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# The Examiner's Guess Questions

**Q.** When was the 30th anniversary of the International Literacy Day celebrated?

**Ans.** September 8, 1996.

**Q.** What is the name of the film that was awarded the Golden Lion prize for best film in the Venice film festival?

**Ans.** The award was bagged by the film 'Michael Collins' directed by Dublin-born director, Neil Jordan.

**Q.** When was International Ozone Day celebrated?

**Ans.** September 16, 1996

**Q.** Cray Research, Wisconsin recently computed the largest known prime number. How many digits does it consist of?

**Ans.** 378,632 digits. The new largest prime number is  $(2^{1257787}-1)$ . It beats the earlier largest listed in the Guinness Book of Records as  $(2^{69431}-1)$ . Prime numbers are those that can be divided without remainder by no whole number other than one and themselves. It has fascinated mathematicians for more than 2,000 years. In 1884, the record was held by a 20-digit number. In the age of the computer, this figure began to be pushed higher and higher—starting from 1971 when computer calculations led to the discovery of a 6,002-digit prime.

**Q.** Which of the five limited-over matches between Pakistan and India was forced to be postponed due to torrential rain?

**Ans.** The five limited-over matches of the Sahara Cup played at Toronto in Canada.

**Q.** Which is the Indian railway project that has been designed for modern high speed trains over the most difficult and challenging terrain?

**Ans.** The Konkan Railway. It incorporates several new technologies that has been used for the first time in India. Among them are a fully computerised train monitoring system, jet fan ventilation in long tunnels and fibre-optic communications

system throughout the 760 km length. The terrain that this railway covers include 179 major and 1670 minor bridges, 288 grade separators, 26 km of total waterway and 92 tunnels with a total length of 83.6 km. The Konkan railway will pass through the longest tunnel in Indian Railways—6.5 km

at Karbude.

**Q.** When was the World Tourism Day?

**Ans.** September 27. During 1995-96, India recorded an impressive 14.8% growth in tourism which was a reversal of a dismal performance during the previous three years

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## Appointments Etc

### APPOINTED; ELECTED ETC

**Alija Izetbegovic:** First President of Bosnia's three-men collective Presidency. He won by narrowly defeating his hardline Bosnian Serb rival Momcilo Krajisnik in the first post war presidential elections.

**Vivek Goenka:** Managing Editor of the Indian Express and Chairman and Managing director of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Ltd., he has been elected President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS).

**Ratnakar Rao:** Chief of Intelligence Bureau.

**Arun Bhagat:** He has been appointed to head the Intelligence Bureau.

**J.M. Qureshi:** He has been appointed the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission.

**Manohar S. Usgaonkar:** He has been appointed Additional Solicitor General of India. He is a legal practitioner from Goa and a member of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

**M. Puslipangadhan:** He has been appointed Managing Director of Over-the-Counter-Exchange of India (OTCEI).

**Raj Singh Dungarpur:** He is the new President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

### RESIGNED

**Gegong Apang:** Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister. He resigned to form a new party called the Arunachal Congress. He was later sworn in as Chief Minister of the State for the fourth consecutive term.

### DIED

**L. Gopalakrishna Menon.** The first communist legislator of independent India.

**Maharani Vedawati.** The last Chalukya queen, scion of Rajasthan's Patan royal family. She had been active in Madhya Pradesh Politics.

**Gian Singh:** One of the few living winners of the Victoria Cross, Gian Singh passed away in Jalandhar

ing hundreds of others.

—Central Bureau of Investigation files a chargesheet against former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in the St Kitts case.

27—After two days of fierce fighting the Afghan capital falls to the Taliban militia. Former President Najibullah is publicly executed while President Burhanuddin and Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar flee.

—In a counter strike by Sri Lankan army, 450 Tamil militants are killed.

### OCTOBER

2—The National Conference headed by Farooq Abdullah sweeps the polls in J & K.

3—Peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders fail in a two-day Washington Summit.

4—A Delhi court issues non-bailable warrants against former Prime Minister in the St Kitts forgery case.

6—National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL) terminates the Rs 133 crore urea import contract with the Turkish firm Karsan Ltd.

7—Patna High Court passes severe strictures against CBI director and asks him not to scuttle the probe into the animal husbandry scam

## EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

7—First phase of polling is held in Jammu and Kashmir in 26 Assembly constituencies.

11—UN General Assembly adopts the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) with a vote of 158 to 3 with 5 abstentions. India, Bhutan and Libya oppose the treaty

16—Second phase of polling in the 34 Assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir begins. Over 45 per cent turnout is recorded.

17—Judges in Geneva give permission to hand to India the documents relating to the 10-year-old Bofors bribe scandal.

—Former Telecommunication Minister Sukh Ram is remanded to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) custody in the Rs 1.68 crore telecom scam.

18—Suresh Mehta Ministry survives a confidence vote in the Gujarat Assembly.

19—Centre dismisses the BJP government in Gujarat and imposes President's rule

20—Arunachal Chief Minister resigns to launch a new party called the Arunachal

Congress.

21—P.V. Narasimha Rao steps down as President of the Congress party after his plea for discharge in the Lakhubhai Pathak case is dismissed.

23—Gunmen open fire on a mosque in Pakistan's Punjab Province during dawn prayers, killing 19 and injuring 50 people.

24—US President Bill Clinton becomes the first Head of State to sign the CTBT shortly after it is opened for signature at the UN. The other declared powers also sign the treaty.

26—Taliban rebels enter Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. About 100 people are killed in the fierce fighting

—LTTE launches a counter-attack on army troops advancing towards the northern rebel stronghold of Kilinochi. At least 150 Tamil militants and about 100 Sri Lankan soldiers are killed in the attack

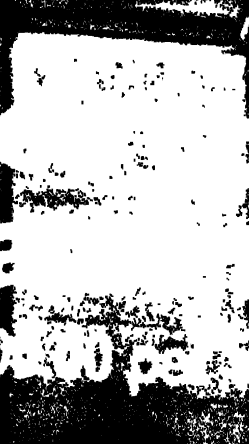
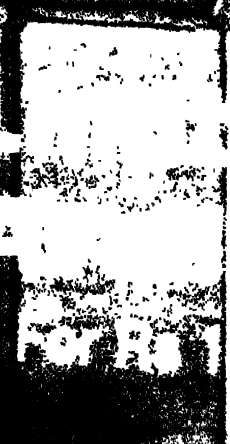
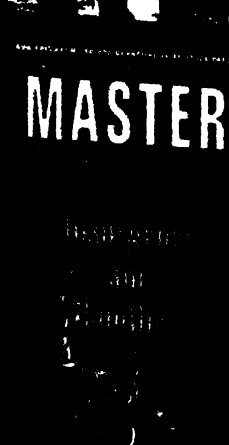
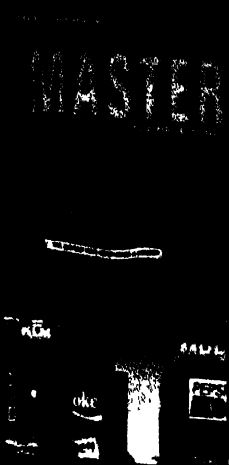
—Riots break out in Gaza city, the worse since 1967, killing 49 people and injur-

## MILESTONES

**Bob Dent:** He became the first person in the world to die by legally sanctioned euthanasia. He had been battling prostate cancer for five years. A lethal dose of barbiturates by a computerised "death machine" was administered to him in his home in Darwin, Australia by his doctor.

**Himanshu Pushkarna:** He became the youngest Indian to fly Solo from the US to India in a single-engine aircraft. He took 20 days to cover the 6,500 nautical miles. He touched 11 cities during the trip. Pushkarna is only 23 years old.

**Mother Teresa:** She has been honoured with honorary US citizenship for her work with the poor. The bill was voted unanimously by the House of Representatives and has to be approved by the Senate.



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# MASTER

From the Desk of the

# Editor



*Dear Masters,*

**T**he end of the year is always a busy time for us, as we begin preparing for the special January issue. Regular readers have begun to expect a bonanza consisting of a round-up of national and international events, resume of expected questions, a round-up of general knowledge and other features. Our special issues of August and January are usually sell-outs and we have to increase our print runs to meet the demand.

This year we are going a step further. Readers can expect completely redesigned sections which give information in a pleasant, reader friendly format. A compendium of useful information, along with brand new features are being prepared. To do this, we have taken into account reader feedback received over the year.

Another surprise will be our cover story. For the first time, we are working on a survey-based cover story which will help discover the Indian youth and break many myths surrounding them. Readers from across the country are helping us with the survey and the story will be a path-breaking effort.

In short, an issue to be treasured not only by those preparing for competitive exams but by everyone who has anything to do with young people. If you miss your copy, chances are that nobody will be willing to lend you one.

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# Sullied National Honour

Mr Rao, the former Prime Minister and Congress president, is arrested and freed shortly afterwards on bail the surety for which is given by the wife of a former minister, not by any member of Mr Rao's family! The trial is on the cards. And thereby hangs an intriguing tale of the sullied national honour.

It reveals an unmistakable trend that something very seriously is wrong with the moral fibre of our society. Our values have practically dimmed into a big cipher. We wallow in the mire of immorality. The shocking decline in our values is both horizontal as well as vertical. Things are happening so rapidly (and routinely) that even the most unflappable temperaments take notice.

But neither the intensity, nor the rapidity, nor the depth of depravity, leaves any dent on the collective national conscience. Let scores of ministers be exposed of bribery, cheating, corruption, legal subterfuge, violating of FERA regulations and a host of sins and crimes and all we hear is an anaemic defence from a crony of the guilty. One "advisor" of the former Prime Minister went on record: Mr Rao is not more equal than others but he is also not less equal than others. Another classic but cussed example of verbal gimmickery is hard to find in the annals of contemporary political scene.

It is a well-known psychological principle that people love their name. Else, they change it as if they were wearing on ill-fitting garment. It is love for the name which has led generations of people to leave their mark on the sands of time. Similarly, people love national honour and are willing to suffer hardship for its sake. They even lay down their life.

The law is taking its own course. The in-dock former Prime Minister may have suddenly acquired an air of self-

confidence, he is seen smiling, and may be walking two feet above the ground but his name is slush. Thus he may lament with Shakespeare, "Oh, I have lost my reputation. I have lost the immortal part of myself."

There are two ways of establishing one's name or keeping it from getting sullied: to be praised by honest men and to be abused by rogues or dishonest ones. But in the case of our

dear VVIPs it is the other way round. They are being cried down by honest men and being defended by those whose own reputation is mud!

This is a pathetic attempt to douse the stink with a synthetic scents. A name once sullied may be repaired but the world always keeps its eyes on the spot where the crack is. Look. A self-styled "king-maker" is desperately engaged in damage-control.

These honourable men have stolen national wealth, betrayed the trust and nation had reposed in them. They may thrive by it but can they return the nation's self-respect? A person who has been

accused of sullyng his own self-respect cannot be expected to return it for this is the one thing of which he himself is bereft!

Mr Rao and his friends are all honourable men! But so far reputation is concerned it is like the blowing of a whistle. Can any one blow it and then put the sound back into it?

People who occupy high positions acquire big name but it depends how they use their position. If they debase their position, or office, they debase the name that is derived from it.

Shame and honour do not arise from extraneous circumstances. They arise from acting one's part. Act well your part, there lies all the honour.

Schiller puts it, "That nation is worthless that will not, with pleasure, venture all for its honour."



# READERS' FORUM

The best two letters of the month, appearing in the box, have been awarded a prize of Rs 100.00 each. Readers are invited to send us their views on topics covered in this issue. The decision of the Editors will be final.

## INDIA'S FIFTIETH YEAR

The many thoughts of your readers in the 50th year competition feature touched my heart. I wonder if these are just lofty views, considering the ground realities in institutions. For example, our university remains closed for six months. For the rest of the year, life is quite hectic with rifle shots, explosions and strikes. Most of us do not get time to study or participate in constructive activities.

During the examinations, we fall back upon guess papers and it is easy to pass. Students, calling themselves *netas*, roam around freely. The classrooms are stained with pan-masalas and everything seems to be rusted.

I wonder where we have reached and where we are heading. To many students here, being an Indian means nothing and even the concept of living in a nation with responsibilities and duties seems to be missing. That is why reading your competition entries was an exhilarating experience. I hope that some of the readers were sincere in their desire to change the country's ways.

Swati Srivastava  
Lucknow, U.P.

## DEMOCRACY IN J & K

The elections in Kashmir proved that democracy is deep-rooted in our country and can survive inspite of threats. However, the job does not end with elections. Proper steps must be taken to nurture the gains so that people regain faith in the democratic process. I hope that democracy can pass the trial in the troubled State.

Pranay Mishra  
Jamalpur, Bihar

## DOCTORS AND PATIENTS

The relation between a doctor and patient depends on mutual give and take. But if one fails in doing one's duty, the system will be disturbed. If each one of us fulfils his duty honestly, to the best of his ability, India can really prosper.

Pranav Kumar  
Darbhanga, Bihar

## LIES AND TRUTH

Can a truth told with bad intent be uglier than a lie (October 96)? I think that this is contrary to principles. A lie, after all, is a lie and it can be used in any direction. Can a porcupine with beautiful flowers on its quills ever be considered a bouquet? When the lie will be exposed, it will look uglier than a malintentioned truth.

Susovan Si  
Baraipali, Orissa

## MANAGEMENT FEATURE

After my B.Tech, I started preparing for MBA and got admission in a good institute. But I was surprised that they did not have facilities for good education, so I left the institute. Your two-part management article was right on target when it said that students should do a self-assessment first. Most of us get carried away by glossy pictures of institutes and take a decision which may not be the best for everyone. Unfortunately, no counselling is available. That is why students appearing for MBA will find the articles very useful.

Somnath Mandai  
Jatni, Orissa

The management interview published by you was remarkable. I would request you to publish a job interview too, which will help readers who are looking for a job.

Scumya Bhattacharyya  
Bhatpara, West Bengal

## CM FEATURES

I cleared many competitive exams and now I am working as an Income Tax Inspector. I would like to say that the COMPETITION MASTER helped me throughout my preparations. Your features on general knowledge and personality development

## JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

We live in an era where even animal fodder is not spared by politicians to make money. Judicial activism is the need of the hour and it is a very good sign that the judges have started make an effort to cure the system. It is true that some of them may erroneously overdo their job but that does not detract the great service they are extending to the nation. We should be grateful that there are still some patriotic people in this country.

Gururaj R. Kulkarni  
Belgaum

## CHINKS IN INDIA'S DEFENCE

Economic growth is based on the principle of risk, whereas national security is important because it creates a climate conducive to entrepreneurship and growth. Other nations too are investing in their defence and there is no dichotomy between national security and economic growth. It is for our myopic leaders to understand this.

Pallavi Tewari  
New Delhi

are really very helpful.

Randhir Kumar  
Patna, Bihar

Though I am not appearing in any competitive exam, I buy the COMPETITION MASTER for its excellent features. I look forward to the changes that you keep making.

Rajendra Prasad  
Burdwan, West Bengal

## REQUEST TO READERS

May be you have appeared in some competitive exams recently. We shall be grateful if you could send us the question papers. All those sending the original question papers will be suitably compensated and the original papers will be returned.

—Editor

# Emerging Importance of Asia-Pacific Region & India's Interests

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is of the opinion that US \$ 7.5 trillion will be added to the gross output of the world in this decade. More than half of this will be produced in East Asia, which amply illustrates its growing significance.

According to World Bank projections, the world's 10 biggest economies (in purchasing power parity terms) in the year 2020 will be :

1. China
2. US
3. Japan
4. India
5. Indonesia
6. Germany
7. South Korea
8. Thailand
9. France
10. Taiwan

This implies that China is geared to overtake the US and Japan. Indonesia is forecast to be bigger than Germany, South Korea to be bigger than France, Thailand bigger than Russia and Taiwan much bigger than Britain. Of the ten largest economies in the world, six will be in East Asia, one in the Americas, one in South Asia and two in Europe.

## ASEAN

The Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN, was established by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand on August 8, 1967, to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development and to promote peace and security in the region. Among its chief projects are

the development of a common market. ASEAN is not only a source of a surplus capital, but is expected to remain the only region with huge capital to export.

Also boosting the East Asian economy is the remarkable technology revolution. Gone are the days when East Asia was totally reliant on Western technology. Rest of the world today looks at East

Asia with a new respect. By 1980, East Asia's total GDP was 59 per cent that of Western Europe, the European Community (EC), the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and of the three North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) countries put together.

By 1980, East Asia's total GDP was 59 per cent that of Western Europe, the European Community (EC), the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) and of the three North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) countries put together.

Outside these three regional economies, the rest of the world will only be producing 13.7 per cent of the global output.

This implies that in the space of just two generations, East Asia would become an economic giant.

economic cooperation and development, promotion of trade, both within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the rest of the world, and programmes for joint research and technical cooperation between member nations.

Held together somewhat tenuously in its early years, ASEAN achieved a new cohesion in the mid-1970s, in the face of the changed power balance in south-east Asia following the end of the Vietnam war. Greater self-confidence was also a factor, born of the dynamic economic growth experienced by the member-nations during the 70s.

Today, the South-East Asian countries form an integral part of the most dynamic region of the global economy. Further, South-East Asian region, as a highway for sea-borne trade, is geostrategically significant for the developed countries as well as for South Asia.

Till the beginning of 1990 little was however done for the defence of the region although questions of mutual security were discussed from

time to time. In 1994, the ARF, comprising of 21 members—the ASEAN Seven, the four ASEAN observers, the eight dialogue partners (see box), China and Russia—was formed.

The ARF is an embryonic structure for multilateral security dialogue for Asia Pacific. It is required to facilitate discussions on political issues and security problems in the region.

The ASEAN region's biggest fears are from China who does not miss any opportunity to act as a big brother. China's attempts to enlarge its sphere of influence in the South China Sea has irked many ASEAN countries. China's claims to Spratly Islands and Mischief Reef, where it has allegedly set up gun emplacements and a listening post, have also been viewed with concern.

Mischief Reef, also claimed by the Philippines, lies within South East Asia's main current trouble spot, the Spratly Islands, variously claimed and occupied by China, Taiwan, Brunei,

Malaysia, Vietnam and, of course, the Philippines.

China's adventure into Mischief Reef has possibly also been prompted by Philippines' weak military and the abandoning by the US of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Base. However, ASEAN was united in voicing its concern about China's incursion, who has now focused its attention to its claim towards Taiwan. Then, there was the series of missile tests conducted by China in March 1996—prior to Taiwan's presidential elections—about which the ASEAN could do little. It is believed that India's inclusion in the ARF would act as a check to countervail China's growing military influence in the region.

ASEAN is also concerned about nuclear proliferation. At the end of the fifth ASEAN summit in Bangkok in December 1995, a treaty banning nuclear weapons from the region was signed. Called the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEAN-WFZ) treaty, it forbids the acquisition, development, use, testing and positioning of nuclear weapons in the zone. A declaration urged the nuclear powers—US, Britain, France, Russia and China—to back the treaty and implement measures to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons.

## US Perception

In the words of the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Asia is considered as the "key to the every day lives of Americans. It is the most lucrative terrain for American jobs and

exports". The US is a dialogue partner with ASEAN and active participant of ARF. It has security linkages and arrangements with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. In spite of a huge trade volume (\$235 billion in 1994), it has enormous deficits in trade balance with the Asia-Pacific region. Initially, the US had reservations about India's entry into the ARF. It had suspected that while India's presence in the ARF may help in containing Chinese expansionist ambitions and thus retaining regional balance, it may also tilt the balance unfavourably for US interests. The US might have feared that India could collaborate with Russia. Good sense prevailed with India's hectic lobbying and the US also saw reason once ASEAN refused to toe its line. India's importance in checking China's growing influence is now clearly recognised by the US and others. Interestingly, the two newly admitted ARF members are India and Myanmar, both having a common border with China.

## Europe's Interest

After more than four decades of the collapse of colonial rule in Asia, Europe is again looking at the Asian region which offers the attraction of increasing opportunities for trade and investments.

In March, 1996 leaders of 25 European and East Asian nations met at Bangkok for a summit to pave the way for a new relationship between the two regions. Unfortunately,

**The ASEAN Seven** are Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Vietnam. Cambodia and Laos will be accepted as members by 1997. *The permanent Secretariat is in Jakarta*

**The ASEAN Observers** are Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea.

**The Dialogue Partners** are Japan, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, European Union, South Korea and India.

**ARF Members** are the ASEAN Seven, the four ASEAN Observers, China, Russia, Myanmar and the eight dialogue partners.

India was excluded from the so-called ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) which, some observers opine, should have been termed as East Asia and West Europe Meeting. Thankfully, India has been invited for their next summit to be held in Britain, thus making ASEM truly represent Asia.

Preoccupied in the post-World War II period, with their own reconstruction, and allied more intimately to the North American markets, Europe has played a negligible role in the growth of Asia's tiger economies. It is now trying to catch up on lost opportunities.

Though trade between Asia and Europe is estimated at over \$ 300 billion a year, investment in the Asian region, by the European private sector, is still very small.

"Somehow we remained aloof from Asia throughout the 1970s and 1980s. We had a policy for all regions of the world except Asia", confessed a senior official in the European Commission's South and South-East Asia Division. In the opinion of experts, Europe's alienation from Asia was due partly to its 'shame' at being driven out by national independence movements in 1940s which brought their colonial rule to an end. Beginning in 1994, the EU's policy towards Asia underwent a major shift with the publication of a discussion paper, "Towards a new Asia strategy", which urged member countries to "strengthen the Union's presence in Asia in order to maintain its leading role in the world".

Worrying the EU plan-

ners is the prospect of being left out of new protectionist economic blocs like the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum which have a combined GNP of \$ 12 trillion, more than half of the world's total GNP. The APEC grouping comprises the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Mexico and the ASEAN Seven.

ASEAN is hoping to set up AFTA, a very ambitious project, by the year 2000. Ninety-eight per cent of intra-ASEAN trade involving over 41,000 items would be subjected to tariff ranging from zero to five per cent.

Since Europe now wants intensification of economic relations with Asia to be the focus of its Asia policy, it is being envisaged that the Asia-Europe alliance would offset American and Japanese domination in Asia. The formation of ASEM may also be viewed as a reaction to the growing power of APEC in which the US, projecting itself as a dominant Pacific Power, has immense leverage.

With the EU now beginning to establish its influence in Asia, the ASEM could, in the long term, successfully contain US political and economic hegemony in the region.

## India's Concerns and Response

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had once said : "We are India of Asia and the people of Asia are nearer and closer to us than others. India is so situated that she is the pivot of Western, Southern and South-East Asia."

India can no longer remain isolated from and unconcerned about the developments in South-East Asia. With the liberalisation and globalisation of our economy There are already visible signs that the earlier misgivings and inhibitions, that some of the countries of this region had regarding the Indian military and political outlook, are being set right.

India's relationship with South East Asia has witnessed three distinct phases. After

independence, in the 1950's and 1960's, when their general economic conditions were at par, India's attitude was somewhat condescending or patronising. Later, when these nations emerged, India viewed them through the Soviet Union 'prism' as being US clients and they in turn viewed India through the US 'prism', with suspicion as being the Soviet Union's client. Thus, in the era of prisms, India missed out the chance to become a member of ASEAN and was later knocking at their door. However, in December 1995 India was admitted as a full dialogue partner of the ASEAN. At the 29th ASEAN ministerial meeting held at Jakarta in July 1996, India was welcomed, alongwith Myanmar, into the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), a high profile body concerned with security issues in the Asia-Pacific.

India's membership of ARF will enable it to engage in political and strategic participation in regional security matters with major powers like US, Japan and the European Union (EU), thus also reinforcing stability in the region.

Because of its pre-eminent location in the Indian ocean, India's geo-strategic environment has to include the Persian Gulf, the Central Asian Republics, Afghanistan, China, the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia. India, thus, forms the natural link to East and South-East Asia.

Even after almost half a century of independence, India still remains a poor country but rich in human,

*India can no longer remain isolated from and unconcerned about the developments in South-East Asia. With the liberalisation and globalisation of our economy, There are already visible signs that the earlier misgivings and inhibitions, that some of the countries of this region had regarding the Indian military and political outlook, are being set right.*

natural and mineral resources. Forty per cent of the Indian population still lives below the poverty line. The economy and industry of the country needs to be geared up so that it is accorded its rightful place. India, therefore, needs to greatly improve its visibility in the ASEAN countries at the political level and through business-level contacts.

The complementariness in the economies of India and ASEAN call for strengthening business relationships between them. India has a large affluent middle class—which constitutes a big market, and the second-largest pool of scientific, technical and managerial manpower in the world. It can be a source for appropriate technology in selected sectors for some of the ASEAN countries.

India needs foreign direct investment, especially in hi-tech value-added, export-oriented and infrastructure industries. Many ASEAN countries are now exporters of capital. There is growing complementarity between India, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. In early 1992, India had 19 operational joint ventures in Malaysia, 15 in Thailand, 13 in Singapore and 11 in Indonesia. Work on the proposed Information Technology Park, with 40 per cent Singaporean equity, 40 per cent by Tatas and 20 per cent by the government of Karnataka, was launched at Bangalore in January 1994. ASEAN-New Delhi Committee and ASEAN-India Business Council have also been set up.

Growing interdepen-

dence, the dynamics of change and emerging security challenges will have to be tackled by the competing regional States. This environment offers India and ASEAN enormous prospects to establish positive political, economic technological and military ties. The absence of conflict on vital issues and the emergence of common challenges will make it possible to rapidly expand ties between the two peoples. To build strong ties this window of opportunity should be grasped and institutional mechanisms formed to advance them on a long-term basis.

Already evident are many positive developments in the Indo-ASEAN relationship. Since 1991 India has laid great emphasis to its relationship with Asia-Pacific region—South-East Asia, Japan, China and Korea. Economic ties with Taiwan are expanding following the establishment of trade and cultural offices. India's becoming a dialogue partner of ASEAN will expand existing ties, which in turn will facilitate India's greater involvement in the Pacific and its entry into APEC.

In real terms it will translate into a quick expansion of trade and investment opportunities, which will remain contingent on improving communication links, particularly airlinks, shipping and telecommunication. Also beneficial for India's security concerns will be the building up of military ties through exchange programmes, naval exercises, training and arms export.

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## ESSAY

# Compromise, reconciliation and forgiveness are the need of the hour

Indian Forest Service 1996

*"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."*

—Longfellow.

**I**F life is a series of struggles, successes and failures, it is also a supreme saga of compassion and compromise. There is nothing as rewarding as the path of reconciliation. Glory belongs to those who forget and forgive even when they themselves are the victims of brute force and deception. Compromise in politics and human relations; reconciliation in national as well as international affairs and forgiveness in matters of religion and faith are the golden goals that ensure peace with progress, prosperity with poise and spiritual serenity with self-control.

In the words of Channing, 'the world is governed much more by opinion than by laws. It is not the judgement of courts but the moral judgement of individuals and masses of men which is the chief wall of defence around property and title. With the progress of society, this power of opinion is taking the place of arms.' Just as the old order changes, yielding place to new, the need of the hour is to establish the rule of law with compromise, reconciliation and forgiveness among individuals, communities and nation-States.

Though the world is not yet totally free from the phantoms of hatred, intrigue and factional feuds, the dark days of Cold War era are behind us now. The die-hard ideologues of yesteryears are either confined to obscurity or they are squirming in their graves. Some hard-headed fundamentalists, though determined in their dubious designs to wreck civilised societies, stand condemned and

isolated from the mainstream. The hardliners who used to dictate terms in matters of war and peace, have been pushed back into a State of non-entity. The present times are quite propitious to usher in an era of compromise over conflicts, reconciliation over rhetoric and rivalry and forgiveness over revenge and reprisal.

The policy of sitting with a devil but refusing to share a common platform with a political adversary or untouchable is fraught with dangers. Just as poverty makes strange bed fellows, similarly political compulsions should aim at compromises if such an approach can serve the larger interests of the polity. In India, the days of a single party rule, both at the Centre as well as in most of the States are almost over.

In order to tackle the gigantic problems of poverty, illiteracy, backwardness on the one hand and corruption, criminalisation of politics on the other, rigid stances of the past will have to be buried and old aversions pushed under the wraps. Ours being a pluralistic society comprising many cultures, languages and religions, criss-crossing the length and breadth of the country, it is highly imperative and inescapable that the policy of 'give and take' is given precedence over personal egos and petty politics.

Events in the recent times, both at home and abroad, have shown that violence and vituperation do not solve any problem nor does force or bullets break any impasse. Even the most bloody wars have failed to ensure lasting peace unless the warring factions sit across the table and negotiate to arrive at some workable settlement and honourable reconciliation. Thus, misguided youth carrying guns and holding the entire society to ransom have to be

forgiven so that they can rejoin the mainstream and can be rehabilitated. "To have power to forgive, is empire and prerogative; it is in crowns a nobler gem to grant pardon than condemn."—Samuel Butler.

Perpetuation of a grudge and its ratification or removal at a later stage with force, is the negation of forgiveness that religions stand for and politics of consensus holds so dear. If armed confrontation harries and harasses human psyche, compromise and co-existence console and caress troubled hearts and minds. When fighting armies and rioting mobs maim and mutilate human limbs, regret and reconciliation offer relief and recovery. With the rigidity of stance in matters of religion and faith, some human beings tend to become wild, whereas with the sweet shower of forgiveness, all becomes sublime and salutary.

Precariously perched at the cross-roads of history, let us awaken the collective conscience of our people and enthuse them with the spirit of 'co-operation, mutual trust and tolerance'. India's salvation lies not in sermons and slogans but in waging a relentless war against the evils of communalism, casteism and religious fundamentalism.

The clarion call that 'compromise, reconciliation and forgiveness' can surely see us through the hardest trials and traumas ahead. The light across the dark tunnel should ignite our imagination and inspire our actions so that the much cherished millennium does not remain lost in the past but becomes a robust reality in future. Let us all resolve to bury the hatchet and work for the realisation of such ideals as our ancestors had set before us long ago and for the accomplishment of which prophets like Gandhi had laid down their lives.



*He could be your son.*



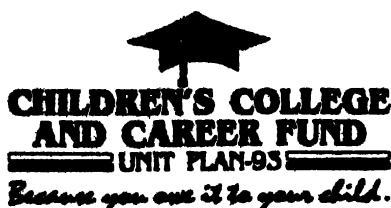
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## SPECIAL FEATURE

# The Clouds of Recession

*After the euphoria of high growth rates and optimistic projections, the economy is showing unmistakable signs of slowing down. This was inevitable, given the fact that systemic faults such as excessive government spending and huge deficits have not been corrected inspite of so much talk of liberalisation and reforms. Instead, the present government continues with the programme launched by the Congress, which has sent the economy into a high debt spin. A high debt is not a matter of concern if growth is high, but when the economy slows down, it will only become a burden. The country has to pay the bill for its profligacy sooner or later and though the goods we import may help us to be smart and modern, payment time is slowly catching up with us.*

*This feature explains the present situation and describes what may happen if the present trend continues. The government can speed up reforms in the areas most needed so that industrial activity gets a boost, but will it be able to do so, caught up as it is in political problems and threats from coalition partners? What does it augur for India?*

It is conventional wisdom that an individual who spends more than he earns will soon be ruined. So also with nations. In India, successive governments have not paid heed to this conventional wisdom for years, relying on deficit financing and borrowings to tide over immediate problems. In this way, we have moved from crisis to crisis, mortgaging our gold at one time or borrowing heavily from the international funding agencies at others.

At the same time, our imports have continued to remain high. The oil import bill takes away a staggering amount of foreign exchange and we have gone on a binge to open our economy to be able to use goods

like VCRs, imported cars, cellular phones and so on. Each of these takes away foreign exchange. Without adequate exports, the trade gap continues to widen. At the same time, government expenditure remains out of control, with deficit financing providing the means to continue spending.

As a result of these policies, a crisis was reached in 1991. Borrowings had been used to meet the government's consumption expenditure. It was evident that the country was heading towards ruin but economists insisted that sustaining high growth rates would not be difficult. India, they said, would most certainly become the next superpower.

These hopes are belied once again in 1996. Rather than become the next superpower, performance is below expectations mainly because systemic faults have never been corrected by successive governments. In the absence of hard decisions, the economy has continued to flounder along. As it slows down now, the fear of recession is raising its head and many corporate leaders believe that it may be a distinct possibility in the near future.

## Worrying signs

THE bad news has started to trickle out now. After two years of recovery, there is a slowdown in the Indian economy. The Index of Industrial Production increased by 9.9 per cent between April-May 1996 compared to 15.4 per cent in the same period last year. Another estimate by the industry ministry shows that production in 24 industries grew just by 5.8 per cent compared to 13.2 per cent in the same period last year. Sanction of funds by fi-

nancial institutions are also down by about one-third of last year's levels and growth of bank credit has also decreased. Premium brands which entered the market have failed to corner volumes as sluggish demand depressed practically all markets. Manufacturers of goods are stuck with unsold goods.

It is almost certain that the objectives mentioned in the government's Common Minimum Programme, that of a 12 per cent industrial growth rate and 7 per cent rate of growth of the economy, will not be achieved.

The signs are worrying, to say the least. Foodgrains production declined by 6 million tonnes in 1995-96 despite good monsoons. Inflation rate, which had been kept down by the previous government by squeezing money supply, has started to rise. Electricity generation slowed down to 2.1 per cent against 12.5 per cent, crude petroleum from 28.1 per cent to 9.4 per cent, saleable steel from 8.2 to 6 per cent. Growth rate of exports declined to 11.5 per cent in April-July 1996 compared to 28 per cent during the corresponding period last year.

While it can be argued that growth is never a smooth upward curve and the present slowdown may be temporary, there are fears in industry that it may well turn out to become a recession. The extended period of liquidity crunch experienced by industry and the high interest rates prevailing in the market took their toll and resulted in fewer new projects being started and it also stalled growth and expansion of older industries. The effect of these conditions is only beginning to be felt and it is feared that the slowdown may last longer than it is hoped.

## Genesis of the problem

**T**HE problem is not new. In India, the government has become huge and unwieldy. Over the years it has increased its expenditure, which is basically non-productive. Subsidies increased, which now amount to 14 per cent of GDP. It was imperative that non-productive expenditure should be curtailed. At the same time, efficiency of the investments made in the public sector should have improved. This has not happened and the economic mismanagement of the country has continued, in spite of claims of a celebrated Finance Minister like Manmohan Singh.

Liberalisation lent a little ray of hope. The reforms undertaken in 1991 opened up the economy to some extent, which attracted foreign capital but did not change the long-term maladies facing the economy. Heavy reliance on foreign capital in any case is a wrong strategy since it can go out as quickly as it comes in. The 1994 Mexican crisis was due to a sudden withdrawal of foreign funds. But the government continues to rely on foreign investment without reforming its wasteful expenditure.

In the process, the government has continued to raise loans, both internally as well as from foreign donors. The fiscal deficit now accounts to almost half of the total revenue receipts of the government. It was budgeted at Rs 57,634 crore in 1995-96 but the revised figure is Rs 64,010 crore. The interest burden is now rising by Rs 8,000 crore annually. Though economists do not agree, the country is well in a debt trap, where additional borrowings are required just to meet the interest burden. The debt service ratio is inching above 30 per cent as a proportion of current receipts, meaning that 30 paise in every rupee earned by the government goes towards repaying the loans taken by it.

In the case of foreign loans, this is more pronounced. According to the World Bank Annual Report for this year, while the amount of aid received by India in 1996 was \$1,309 million, the amount paid by the country as repayments and interest on

past loans was \$2,033 million. In 1994-95, India repaid \$200 million more to the World Bank than it disbursed to us.

The figures point to the fact that our public finances are insolvent. We have been consuming more than we earn, resulting in high indebtedness. There has been no thinking on three major areas of concern, namely: (i) administrative spending of the government, (ii) ballooning debt and (iii) subsidies. The public sector continues to be a drain on resources, even though talk of privatisation has been going on for years.

Unless systemic corrections are made on the three fronts, the country will continue to blunder along economically. Yet, there are no indications that this is happening. Far from reducing expenditure, the government periodically announces pay revisions of its employees because it does not want to displease them. Unproductive departments, relics of the license raj, are not closed down. All the reforms have been one-sided, encouraging foreign investment even at the cost of neglecting Indian industry.

## What should be done

**T**HERE may be a difference of opinion whether the current slowdown will lead to a recession or not. But even if it does not, the country can brace itself for a period of hardship. Inflation will rise and the increased salaries of the people will not be able to keep pace with prices. Many companies will go bankrupt. To encourage exports, the rupee may be devalued again.

The 1991 crisis was not solved by the government, it was merely postponed. A similar thing might happen in 1996 also.

The only way that such a situation can be avoided is by tightening control over expenditure. The government has to implement measures of austerity and shut down all departments which are not essential. Public sector disinvestment has to be accelerated. Reforms also should be accelerated in areas which are still closed. The reforms process has to move out of its obsession with foreign capital and the government must take action in

areas that encourage initiative among the Indian people. In areas like power generation and infrastructure development, transparent systems need to be installed so that new projects are not only given early clearance but they can proceed without controversy.

At the same time, subsidies have to be relentlessly cut and investments in productive sectors increased instead. For example, subsidies on food, fertilisers, electricity, transport and so on are given at the cost of investment on primary education, health care, nutrition and investment in infrastructure. Whereas an investment creates a facility to be used in subsequent years, a subsidy is merely consumed.

The government has to address the question of reform seriously. The Congress leaders used the reforms to line their pockets, as the cases with the CBI show. That could be the reason why reforms were undertaken selectively. What is needed is transparency in economic management so that business can expand and contribute towards achieving a high growth rate. Over-reliance with foreign capital and loans has also to be curtailed.

It is time to realise the truth, that the country must run on sound commercial principles. Only if it has surpluses will it be able to meet its social obligations. Otherwise, we will have to face a crisis every few years.

In the worst scenario, there will be falling demand, which will lead to factories closing down. Workers will lose their jobs and purchasing power will be further reduced. The fall in demand thus becomes self-perpetuating and recovery comes after a painful process. India has not faced a depression in the real sense till now though there have been periods of slow growth, so the recession will bring untold hardship to people.

The runaway spending by our leaders and the profligate ways of the government cannot continue. What is important is that economic decisions be taken at this stage. But with the coalition government trying to figure out on a daily basis whether it has the support of its constituents or not, this might be a tall order. Will the mismanagement continue?

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CORE

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Redefining Centre-State Relations

*For long on the back-burner, the issue of Centre-State relations has assumed great importance as regional parties have emerged as key players in national politics. The dominant, centralised regime built over the years may have met its match in the people power demanding a government closer to them.*

*Today, no national party can claim to represent India's diverse people. This is reflected in the 11th Lok Sabha, where the second largest group after the BJP is not the Congress but the regional parties. There is a perceptible change in power equations, giving rise to a dialogue that seeks to modify Centre-State relations in the country. The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front government puts the issue firmly on the agenda, but whether it actually gets down to do this or appoints more committees will depend on the sincerity of purpose.*

*This feature explains the economic and constitutional issues and discusses the Sarkaria panel and Tenth Finance Commission recommendations. If the government seriously reviews the contentious issues, the country may be moving towards a federal structure as envisaged in the Constitution.*

**T**HOUGH India is a Union of States, over the years, the Centre has become strong while the States have been neglected. It was natural that people would start demanding a government that was closer to their needs and aspirations, which was approachable and responsive. Slowly, the regional powers started garnering more and more votes, and the national parties found that they could not form governments on their own without the support of these groups.

It became evident in the last elections that States could no longer be neglected and relations between the Centre and the States would have to be reviewed. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) announced

by the United Front government suggested a federal vision pertaining to the Objectives Resolution of 1946. The CMP adopted a "two track policy" on federalism consisting of issues on which there is a consensus and the other for contentious ones.

The first are issues that allow States more autonomy in determining their priorities in developmental programmes, permitting them greater freedom to draw up their own plans within the framework of the National Five Year Plans, and transferring the control of most Centrally-sponsored schemes to State governments. For the second track issues, a high-level committee has been set up.

## The Rise of Regionalism

**T**HE weakening of States is a result of policies of politicians who wanted to keep all powers to themselves. They slowly usurped powers to protect their positions and in the process a strong Centre emerged even at the cost of the States.

Upto the last elections, there was a completely centralised polity, a process initiated by Mrs Indira Gandhi. After the 1967 chaos in which the regional groups won 158 seats, she ensured that all power remained in Delhi. Till her defeat in the elections in 1977, she imposed the President's Rule 23 times against opposition governments and five times against Congress governments. Central control of finance and foodgrains was used to starve States which opposed the Central leadership. Morarji Desai was no visionary either and did not care to fulfil his promise about federalism. He used Central power to dismiss Congress ministries and Mrs Gandhi did the same when she returned to power in 1980. Successive governments too paid lip service to the issue of Centre-

State relations but nothing much was done. Narasimha Rao went a step further: though he did not dismiss State governments like his predecessors, he centralised all powers. From 1994, all major decisions were taken by the PMO's office, usurping even the powers of the ministries.

The writing on the wall was not deciphered by any of the national parties. A federal structure was never considered a possibility and that is why the Sarkaria Commission recommendations were neglected for all these years. Regional parties, for their part, are no longer content in lending support to the national parties to form governments. They want to make the structure of governance more federal so that their concerns are given adequate voice.

At the grassroots level, a change has come about in the aspirations of the people too. They want a government that listens to them in matters that affect them locally, such as water and electricity supplies, education, transport and so on. They do not want to depend on an unresponsive distant government or wait for someone in Delhi to take decisions for them. Gradually, the way is being paved for full-scale federalism. Rather than Centre guiding the affairs of the States, a situation may ultimately come where the States influence the policies that are made by the Centre.

## Article 356

**T**HE Inter-State Council meeting held in October, 1996, declared its commitment to "co-operative federalism". The issue which dominated the meeting was the role of the Governor. Kerala Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar went as far as demanding that the post be scrapped altogether, showing the extent to which this supposedly neu-

tral position has been abused by Central governments. The Home Minister, Indrajit Gupta announced that Article 356 would be amended, which empowers the Centre to impose President's Rule in a State. The Supreme Court has suggested that the proclamation imposing President's Rule would have to disclose the material facts and grounds on which the action had been taken.

Another safeguard suggested by the court was that Article 356 should expressly provide that the State Assembly could not be dissolved till the proclamation had been considered by Parliament.

The real issue, however, is how to strengthen State revenues. At present a certain portion of excise and income tax is distributed to the States. The Sarkaria Commission suggested disbursing 29 per cent of Central tax collections but there is no agreement on this. Clearly, if States must really be strong, other means to strengthen their resources have to be found. Kashmir, for example, does not have enough collections even to pay government salaries. The fact that the Chief Ministers at the Inter-State Council meeting devoted themselves to dismissal of governors shows their inability to face real issues. How can States talk of autonomy without being financially viable? It is doubtful that scrapping of Article 356 is a key problem and it will make the States strong. Amending it will, however, remove a major cause of worry among the State governments.

### Updating Sarkaria panel report

A key factor in the exercise to redefine Centre-State relations will be sincerity of purpose. The Sarkaria Commission recommendations have remained on paper for years. Now the government has appointed a high-level committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

One of the areas that has to be tackled is the devolution of financial powers. The Tenth Finance Commission had recommended radical changes in the Constitution for a more equitable transfer of tax revenue from the Centre to the States. At

present, only the income tax and excise duty is available to the States. If the Finance Commission's recommendation is accepted, the divisible pool will include more revenues from corporation tax and customs. For this, Article 270 will have to be amended. The role of the Planning Commission will have to be amended too, since a large percentage of funds is decided by it, increasing the scope of arbitrariness.

States also suffer when the Central government tries to control its deficit as demanded by the international funding agencies. In 1995, the deficit was pruned to 5.9 per cent of GDP mainly by cutting resources transferred to the States. In the last five years, Central transfers declined from 6 per cent of GDP to about 4.5 per cent this year. Economic reforms have thus succeeded in squeezing the States financially.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu raised 12 major points. Among them were (i) Central taxes should be pooled for devolution to the States as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission (ii) role and responsibility of the Planning Commission be downsized (iii) Centre to take initiative on

imposition of total prohibition and (iv) clear policy guidelines should be formulated for governing foreign participation by the infrastructure sector. The States have also demanded that they be allowed to run regional television centres.

How many of these finally get to be accepted remain to be seen. A lot depends on political will. If the United Front pays lip service to the issue, it is doubtful that anything will be done at all. The recent decisions to impose President's Rule in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh do not point to the government's change in thinking. The decisions strike at the very root of the basic tenets of federalism and pluralism which the UF government claims to seek. If the government continues to dilly-dally, it may finish its term leaving the important issues unresolved.

At the same time, care has to be taken that it does not result in runaway regionalism. There is danger that some groupings may result from caste and other narrow considerations. The Prime Minister has opened a Pandora's box by announcing the formation of Uttarakhand. This will have to be controlled even while allowing more autonomy to the States.

### Centre-State Relations

India is a federal State. Relations between the Union government and the States are defined in Part XI of the Constitution. Articles 245 to 255 specify the distribution of legislative powers and 256 to 261 define obligations of the States and the control of the Union government over the States. Article 262 covers disputes relating to water disputes. Under Article 356 lists the "Emergency Provisions" under which the President may assume all or any of the functions of a State government.

In March 1983, the government appointed the R. S. Sarkaria Commission to review Centre-State relations and recommend devolution of resources. Wide ranging recommendations were made by the Commission. It said that no change was needed in the Constitution to meet the growing demands of the State and that a strong Centre was needed to ensure national unity. It said decentralisation was needed to enable States to develop their resources. It talked of "cooperative federalism", generous use of Article 258 which gave the Centre to confer executive authority on the States, retention of Article 356 and establishing the Inter-State Council.

The Centre appointed the 10th Finance Commission in 1992 with K.C. Pant as the chairman. It recommended inclusion of corporate tax and customs duties in the divisible pool of resources available to the States. It also recommended other measures to improve flow of resources to the States.

The recommendations of neither the Sarkaria nor the 10th Finance Commission were implemented.

## ARTICLE

# Alarming Signals from the Public Sector Banks

*The bank nationalisation of 1969 generated a lot of enthusiasm in the country. In an era of "public sector", bank nationalisation was welcomed by almost all sections of the society. The argument in favour of nationalisation of banks was that government control over the banking system would ensure flow of bank credit to priority areas of public policy, particularly in rural areas which were earlier starved of funds. The government also sought to increase its effective control of the finances of the system by controlling the so-called "commanding heights" of the economy. Subsequent nationalisation of banks was done by the government after initial success of the 14 nationalised banks.*

**T**HE initial euphoria of bank nationalisation gradually started decreasing. By mid-eighties, the inherent inefficiencies and lethargy of the public sector started coming to the fore and the public sector banks were no exception. Increased trade unionism, unmindful expansion, politically influenced unviable lending, overstaffing, poor services and lack of young blood in the top management were some of the ailments which started dogging the banking sector. Huge losses were reported by the public sector banks year after year, but they made no effort to improve their performance and continued to depend on government grants and aid year after year.

The fiscal crisis of 1990-91 helped the planners of the country to rediscover the consistently poor performance of these banks. It was also realised that the national exchequer could not continue to bear the burden of inefficiencies of the public sector banks year after year. As in many areas, banking sector also witnessed some reform.

Accounting guidelines were re-drawn by the RBI, capital adequacy norms were re-defined, a long-term schedule of the rates of liquidity ratio and the cash reserve ratio was laid down, banks were allowed to raise private equity from the public; and performing and non-performing assets were redefined.

Public sector banks, which showed a net profit of Rs 804 crore during 1991-92, posted a net loss of Rs 3239 crore in 1992-93 which further rose to a massive Rs 4349 crore during 1993-94, thanks to revised accounting norms set by the RBI and its instructions about Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Earlier the banks used to fudge the accounts by concealing the NPAs and used to count the accrued interest in their profit, irrespective of the fact that recovery of such loans was effected. But under the revised instructions, it became difficult for banks to conceal these facts, which resulted in huge losses during the first two years of reforms.

When a net profit of Rs 1117 crore was reported by these banks in 1994-95, the planners heaved a sigh of relief that the banking sector, at last was back on the rails. But the performance of the banking sector, particularly the public sector banks, has revealed serious chinks in the armour of the banking sector. The public sector banks once again plunged into the red by showing a net loss of Rs 373 crore for 1995-96. Wrong and inadequate provisions, wilful wrong classification of NPA and non-adherence to the prescribed accounting norms of the RBI during the previous years by some banks, was responsible for this poor showing. Eight banks have reported a total net loss of Rs 2592 crore while 19 other banks have shown a net profit of Rs 2219

crore. Out of the total loss of Rs 2592 crore reported by eight public banks, Indian Bank alone accounts for a whopping Rs 1336 crore loss, an astronomical figure by any standards.

## Multiple Pitfalls

**T**HE disaster of 1995-96 in the banking sector has revealed many pitfalls in the working of public sector banks. Wrong reporting and poor regulatory performance of the RBI has also been unveiled. Indian Bank had shown a modest profit of Rs 16 crore during 1994-95 as a result of wrong reporting and non-adherence to the accounting norms. But the previous year's unprecedented loss resulted in wiping out the bank's entire capital and reserves, taking the capital adequacy to zero per cent of total assets, as against the prescribed minimum of 8 per cent. Another bank which falls in this category is the Vijaya Bank, which posed a net loss to the tune of Rs 251 crore during 1995-96. Even the Punjab National Bank, which has remained a forerunner among profit-making banks in the public sector, has announced a loss of Rs 96 crore during the previous financial year. UCO Bank, United Bank and State Bank of Saurashtra are three other banks which have reported a loss of over Rs 200 crore during the year. Other loss-making banks are Punjab and Sind Bank and the Central Bank of India.

There has been a serious slippage in achieving capital adequacy norms. All the banks were asked by the RBI in 1992 to maintain capital equivalent to 8 per cent of their risk weighted assets. Banks like Indian Bank and UCO Bank, which have overseas branches, were supposed to have



met the prescribed capital adequacy by March 31, 1994, later extended by one year. But on March 31, 1996, both these banks had not achieved the norm, with Indian Bank with zero capital and UCO Bank at marginally less than 8 per cent of its risk weighted assets.

The rest of the banks were required to achieve the capital adequacy norm by the end of financial year 1995-96. Out of them another six banks, including Vijaya Bank, Central Bank of India, United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank and Indian Overseas Bank, have failed to achieve the norm. There are seven other banks which have narrowly managed to achieve the required capital adequacy ratio of 8 per cent. The RBI has now extended the deadline to another one year, i.e., to the end of this financial year.

The poor performance of the banking sector, particularly the public sector banks during the previous year has left little hope for improvement in the current financial year, when the operating results of these banks are expected to be equally disastrous.

It is apparent that a lot more is required to reform the banking sector and whatever was done earlier failed to achieve the desired results.

## Remedies

**B**EFORE suggesting any remedies, it would be appropriate to analyse additional causes for this disappointing performance. During the previous financial year the government pumped in Rs 850 crore into the capital of six banks. But during the two financial years prior to it, an average of Rs 5000 crore per annum was made available to these banks. The budget provision of Rs 909 crore for the current financial year is also not going to bring any cheer to the banking sector. Another reason is the inbuilt lack of profitability in the new norms. As banks increase their capital adequacy ratio, their loan portfolio receives a setback, thereby reducing their profitability. Moreover, all bank advances are heavily loaded with the incidence of defaults. This has resulted in a very slow growth of ad-

vances.

A plethora of other problems have also influenced the operations of the banking sector adversely. Poor quality of management, exorbitant staff cost, priority sector lending and unmindful branch expansion are among some other ailments. Increasing trade-unionism among the staff as well as the officers is resulting in increasing indiscipline, staff cost, and poor quality of service. In an era where highly personalised service is provided by many private and foreign banks, long queues and undue delays in the public sector banks may result in reduction in the number of their customers in the years to come.

Many steps are in the offing, while several others are required to be taken to improve the performance of public sector banks. The government has allowed the banks to raise capital from the market by offering their share capital to the general public. But this step may not help the loss-making banks, as there may not be any takers for shares of loss-making banks. This step, however, can be taken by the profit-making banks. A few well-to-do banks like Dena Bank, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda and Corporation Bank are among the few which are planning to come out with equity share issue during this year, but persistently slackening capital market trends during the recent months may act as dampener. Gradually, most of the public sector banks may think of floating shares to the public, which would not only improve their capital base, but would also ensure more efficient management due to partial private control.

One important factor which hinders bank profitability is in the field of credit expansion. As the banks increase their lending, their capital adequacy suffers, due to high incidence of default in repayment. Moreover, the previous loans, most of which were not given through prescribed procedures and precaution, have turned into non-performing assets which directly affects their profitability. In addition, the banks also finance priority sector and advance other lendings at concessional interest rates. All these factors place restrictions on the public sector banks to expand

their credit. If, despite these factors, they venture into bold financing and lending, their profitability as per existing accounting norms is bound to suffer a setback. The RBI, is therefore, seriously thinking of extending the deadline for meeting the capital adequacy norms.

It is also contemplating tightening of the accounting guidelines for banks. Disturbed by the recent irregularities in the accounting procedures in the Indian Bank and Vijaya Bank, it is expected that clear-cut and more elaborate instructions on NPAs, provisioning and accounting norms will soon be issued. The existing instructions on NPAs are ambiguous which resulted in different interpretation, causing concealment of material facts by several banks.

Complete deregulation of interest rates, both on deposits and lending is another idea with which RBI is toying. It is argued that when the banks are allowed to fix the interest rate, depending upon the viability of a lending project, they can be made more accountable for their deeds. This would be a revolutionary step in the Indian context, but nevertheless, desirable. The RBI is also planning to introduce Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) system by soon amending parts of RBI Act and Bankers Books Evidence Act. This path-breaking technology may ultimately result in paperless banking. Trials are already being done between Mumbai and Chennai and trials of transfer of funds by using EFT system between Delhi and Calcutta are on the cards.

Remedial measures are also required to be taken at the local level by the bank management. Proper management of staff, adherence to the prescribed accounting norms, proper pre-lending appraisal of the viability at lending projects and reduction in trade unionism at all levels, are some of the few steps which could be taken by the managers of these banks at the micro-level. Today when the competition from the private banks has turned into a challenge, with many of them offering home-banking and convenience banking services, customer service in the public sector banks must improve drastically, if they have to survive.

## MANAGEMENT

# Business GK

1. Who has been appointed chairman of the disinvestment commission?

- a) G.V. Ramakrishna    b) Madhu Dandavate  
c) Y.V. Reddy    d) Abraham Thomas

2. Who is the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission?

- a) Y.K. Alagh    b) H.D. Deve Gowda  
c) Madhu Dandavate    d) P. Chidambaram

3. Which of the following services does not come under the purview of the tax net, as per the latest budget?

- a) Advertising    b) Courier  
c) Paging    d) Life Insurance

4. Which Indian company is featured highest in the list of Fortune 500 companies?

- a) Reliance    b) Indian Oil  
c) Hindustan Lever    d) Tata

5. Which industrialist is tying up with General Accident of UK to launch an insurance company in India?

- a) Nusli Wadia    b) Swaraj Paul  
c) P. Rajarathinam    d) H.P. Nanda

6. The American company Tiffany held its exhibition in Mumbai recently. With what does the company deal in?

- a) Jewellery    b) Watches    c) Cosmetics    d) Perfume

7. Which of the following is opening a knitwear institute in India?

- a) IIT    b) NID    c) NIFT    d) None of these

8. Who has been appointed the Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory Authority?

- a) M.V. Arunachalam    b) N. Rangachary  
c) R. Vishwanathan    d) Y.V. Reddy

9. Which company is the Indian partner for producing the Ford Escort?

- a) Tata    b) Eicher    c) Escorts    d) Mahindra

10. Which brand is advertising itself as 'Undress Code for Men'?

- a) VIP    b) Revlon    c) Rivolta    d) Raymond's

11. What is the target of arrivals of foreign tourists in India for the year 1996-97?

- a) 23.7 lakh    b) 18.3 lakh    c) 12.8 lakh    d) 15.7 lakh

12. What is the per cent share of India in the world exports of spices in 1995-96?

- a) 27.3    b) 32.8    c) 41.9    d) 52.7

13. Alliance Air is the subsidiary of which airline?

- a) Air France    b) Indian Airlines  
c) Modiluft    d) KLM

14. A new Sensex has been implemented in the Mumbai Stock Exchange from August 19, 1996. How many companies have been included in the new index?

- a) 20    b) 30    c) 75    d) 100

15. In the new Sensex, the share value of which company has the maximum weight assigned to it?

- a) Reliance    b) Telco    c) SAIL    d) State Bank

16. Which company advertises itself as "Believe in the Best"?

- a) BPL    b) Videocon    c) Sony    d) Philips

17. According to the Common Minimum Programme of the government, by which year is poverty proposed to be abolished in the country?

- a) 2000    b) 2002    c) 2005    d) 2007

18. Plastic money relates to:

- a) Plastic currency    b) Paper currency  
c) ATM Cards    d) Credit cards

19. What is the minimum period for which banks may accept term deposits, according to RBI guidelines?

- a) 15 days    b) 30 days    c) 46 days    d) 91 days

20. In terms of sales for 1995, which company ranks the highest in the world?

- a) Mitsubishi    b) Coca Cola  
c) General Motors    d) Mitsui

21. In which State is Reliance putting up its Refinery project?

- a) Kerala    b) Karnataka    c) U.P.    d) Gujarat

22. Flying Machines brand of jeans is owned by which company?

- a) Levi's    b) Arvind Mills  
c) Mafatlal    d) None of these

23. Which is the Indian partner of Microsoft to provide software development consultancy?

- a) HCL    b) PCL    c) TCS    d) TVSE

24. In which State is Hyundai setting up its car project?

- a) Tamil Nadu    b) Karnataka    c) Kerala    d) Gujarat

25. Which company has been restrained by the Supreme Court from using the 'Whirlpool' trademark?

- a) TVS    b) Usha Shriram    c) BPL    d) Videocon

26. Which public sector company is planning to invest Rs 15,000 crore over the next few years in cement, shipping, port development and coal mining?

- a) Coal India Ltd    b) Shipping Corporation  
c) SAIL    d) MMTC

27. How much does the title sponsorship cost in the Miss World contest in Bangalore?

- a) Rs 10 crore    b) Rs 8.75 crore  
c) Rs 5 crore    d) Rs 10 lakh

28. Which is the country's most admired company in the durables market, according to a recent survey?

- a) Philips    b) MRF    c) Maruti    d) Titan

29. Which is the country's most admired company in con-

sumer goods market, according to a recent survey?

- a) Hindustan Lever      b) Nestle
- c) Cadbury              d) Pepsi

For questions 30-35, match the companies with their chairmen:

- 30. BPL                      a) S.K. Modi
- 31. Modiluft                b) H.J.J. Rensma
- 32. Titan                   c) Ashok Jain
- 33. Philips                 d) T.P.G. Nambiar
- 34. Cadbury Schweppes    e) Sanjay Dalmia
- 35. GTC Industries        f) Xerxes Desai

36. The Department of Company Affairs is under which ministry?

- a) Law                      b) Finance
- c) Human Resources      d) Industry

37. Which State leads in proposals for Foreign Direct Investment for 1991-96?

- a) Maharashtra      b) Kerala      c) Tamil Nadu      d) Delhi

38. How many branches are planned to be computerised by the State Bank of India in the current year?

- a) 1000      b) 3000      c) 100      d) 300

39. What level of income for individuals is exempted from tax in the financial year 1996-97?

- a) Rs 35,000      b) Rs 38,000      c) Rs 40,000      d) Rs 42,000

40. Which is the first Asian tiger country to join the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?

- a) Japan      b) South Korea      c) India      d) China

41. The sportswear company Adidas belongs to which country?

- a) Germany      b) France      c) USA      d) Belgium

42. Which country has outlawed the possession of a computer with networking capability without authorisation?

- a) France      b) Belgium      c) Holland      d) Myanmar

43. Which State leads in foodgrains production in India?

- a) Punjab      b) MP      c) UP      d) West Bengal

44. Which company plans to set up the world's largest motor cycle factory in India through a joint venture?

- a) BMW      b) Yamaha      c) Kawasaki      d) Honda

45. Which company makes the Comsat Forte capsules, which were found to be contaminated?

- a) Boehringer Mannheim      b) Sandoz
- c) Pfizer                      d) Ranbaxy

46. Which company plans to take over the Surat Electricity Company?

- a) NTPC      b) Sandoz      c) Telco      d) Torrent

47. Which bank went in for a global depository receipt (GDR) issue recently?

- a) Dena Bank              b) State Bank
- c) Indian Bank            d) Uco Bank

48. Which Indian bank is planning to take over the ailing Union Bank of Mauritius?

- a) State Bank              b) Dena Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda          d) Indian Bank

49. With which organisation is Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation planning to set up eco-tourism centres?

- a) Worldwide Fund For Nature      b) ITDC

c) East West Airlines

d) Sterling Resorts

50. Which company is advertising its brand as "Why should I compromise"?

- a) Motorola                      b) Bharati Telecom
- c) Punwire                      d) Ericsson

51. The term 'Hindu rate of growth' was coined by:

- a) P.N. Bhagwati              b) K.N. Raj
- c) Raj Krishna                d) S. Chakravarty

52. What is the public sector outlay in the Eighth Plan, in Rs crores?

- a) 1,75,000      b) 2,00,000      c) 2,25,000      d) 3,50,000

53. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was started by:

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru      b) Rajiv Gandhi
- c) Indira Gandhi          d) Sanjay Gandhi

54. VISWA—a project of rural employment programme was launched for the first time in:

- a) UP      b) Maharashtra      c) West Bengal      d) Karnataka

55. When was the Cooperative Societies Act first passed in India?

- a) 1900      b) 1902      c) 1904      d) 1906

56. As per the latest budget provisions the capital of the NABARD will be doubled to:

- a) Rs 400 crore              b) Rs 500 crore
- c) Rs 750 crore              d) Rs 1000 crore

57. The conference 'Vision-2000' held recently related to which sector?

- a) Tourism      b) Insurance      c) Banking      d) Foreign trade

58. Who has been declared 'Steelmaker of the Year' by an international steel magazine?

- a) Ratan Tata                      b) L.N. Mittal
- c) Russi Modi                      d) None of these

59. The top three sugarcane producing States are:

- a) UP, Bihar, MP                      b) Punjab, Tamil Nadu, MP
- c) Maharashtra, MP, Tamil Nadu
- d) UP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu

60. The third show in the 'Made in India' series was held in which country in August, 1996:

- a) Japan      b) Mauritius      c) Nairobi      d) France

### Answers

- 1. (a)      2. (c)      3. (d)
- 4. (b) With sales of \$12,831 million, Indian Oil is at the 317 position. Last year its position was 481.
- 5. (a)      6. (a)      7. (c)      8. (b)      9. (d)      10. (c)
- 11. (a)      12. (c)      13. (b)      14. (b)
- 15. (d) SBI's weight is 8.73. In the old Sensex, Reliance had the maximum weight.
- 16. (a)      17. (c)      18. (d)      19. (b)      20. (a)      21. (d)
- 22. (b)      23. (c)      24. (a)      25. (b)      26. (c)      27. (b)
- 28. (d)      29. (a)      30. (d)      31. (a)      32. (f)      33. (b)
- 34. (c)      35. (c)      36. (b)      37. (d)      38. (a)      39. (c)
- 40. (b)      41. (a)      42. (d)      43. (c)      44. (b)      45. (a)
- 46. (d)      47. (b)      48. (c)      49. (a)      50. (d)      51. (c)
- 52. (d)      53. (b)      54. (c)      55. (c)      56. (d)      57. (b)
- 58. (b)      59. (d)      60. (c)

# ADMISSION ALERT

## The Competition Master's Guide to Opportunities

*This feature alerts our readers about forthcoming examinations and opportunities. Institutes should send us information well in advance to be included here. Readers are advised to assess their own suitability and that of the institute before applying—this feature is not a recommendation of any course or institute.*

### Defence

**Combined Defence Services Examination:** To be held on May 11, 1997. Last date: December 9, 1996. Apply to: Secretary, Union Public Service Commission, Dhoolpur House, New Delhi - 110 011. For details see advt published on October 26, 1996.

### Design

**Diploma Courses in Industrial, Communication and Textile Design:** (4 years). Eligibility: Higher Secondary or equivalent and age below 22 years. Written test: January 4-5, 1997. Last date: November 29, 1996. Apply to: National Institute of Design, Paldi, Ahmedabad - 380 007 with a DD for Rs 400 payable to Secretary, NID and a s.a.s.e. of 25x12 cm.

### Engineering

**Joint Entrance Examination for IITs (JEE 97):** To be held on May 3-4, 1997. Eligibility: Class 12. Apply to: Organising Chairman, JEE 97 Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai - 400 076. For details see advt published on October 19, 1996.

### Management

1. **Post Graduate Diplomas in Business, Advertising or Rural Marketing (PGDBA, PGDACM, PGDRM):** (2-year, full time). Eligibility: Bachelor's degree with minimum 50% marks. Last date: December 20, 1996. Written test: February 2 1997. Apply to: Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, VL Mehta Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 056 with a DD for Rs 600 per programme payable to Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies and a s.a.s.e. with stamps of Rs 20.

2. **MBA:** (2 years, full time). Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Last date: January 3, 1997. Written test: February 2 1997. Apply to: Admissions Chairman, Bharathidasan Institute of Management, Post Box No 12, BHEL Complex, Tiruchirappalli - 620 014 (T.N.) with a DD for Rs 500.

3. **PGDBM:** (2 years, full time). Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Written test: MAT on December 8th. Last date: December 31, 1996. Apply to: Centre for Management Development, Modinagar - 201 204 with a DD for Rs 800.

4. **Master of Finance and Control (MFC):** (2 years, full time). Eligibility: Graduation. Written test: February 2, 1997. Last date: December 9, 1996. Apply to: Admissions Co-ordinator, Department of Financial Studies, Room 305-A Arts Faculty Building,

University of South Delhi Campus, Benito Juarez Road, New Delhi - 110 021 with a DD for Rs 500.

5. **Master of Management:** Eligibility: Engineering graduates with first class or post graduates in science with first class. Written test: December 21, 1996. Last date: November 15, 1996. Apply to: Admissions Co-ordinator School of Management, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 with a DD of Rs 500 drawn in favour of Registrar IIT Bombay.

6. **MBA:** (2-year, full time and 3-year, part time). Eligibility: Graduate in Arts with minimum 50% marks or in Sciences with minimum 55% marks. Written test: January 12, 1997. Last date: November 30, 1996. Apply to: Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007 with a DD of Rs 500 in favour of Registrar University of Delhi.

7. **PG Diploma in Business Management/Computer Applications (PGDBM, PGDCA):** (2-year/3-year, full time, residential). Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline, maths upto class 12 for PGDCA. Written test: December 29, 1996. Last date: December 9, 1996. Apply to: Institute of Management Technology (IMT) PB 137 Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201 001 with a DD for Rs 600 in favour of Institute of Management Technology.

8. **PG Diploma in Industrial Management:** (2-year, full time, residential). Eligibility: Bachelor's degree in engineering or technology with minimum 60% marks. Written test: March 2, 1997. Last date: January 10, 1997. Apply to: National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Vihar Lake, Mumbai - 400 087 with a DD for Rs 500 drawn in favour of NITIE, Mumbai.

9. **PGDBM:** (2-year, full time). Eligibility: Graduate in any discipline. Written test: January 25, 1997. Last date: December 27, 1996. Apply to: International Management Institute, B-10 Qutub Institutional Area, Tara Crescent, New Delhi - 110 016 with a DD for Rs 750 drawn in favour of International Management Institute.

10. **PGDBM:** (2-year, full time). Eligibility: To be determined on the basis of a composite index consisting of admission test score, academic performance, personality assessment, non-academic accomplishments and work experience. Last date: December 5, 1996. Written test: January 19, 1997. Apply to: Admissions Co-ordinator, S.P. Jain Institute of Management Research, Munshi Nagar, Dadabhai Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400 058 with a DD of Rs 575.

11. **PGDBA:** (2-year, full time). Eligibility: Graduate with minimum 50% marks. Last date: December 7, 1996. Written test: January 4, 1997. Apply to: ICFAI Business School, Road No. 3 Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034 with a DD for Rs 400.

12. **PG Diplomas in Management, Tourism, Computers:** (2-year, full time, 3-year, part time). Written test: January 12, 1997. Last date: December 20, 1996. Apply to: Institute of Management Studies, C-238 Bulandshahr Road, Ghaziabad - 201 009 with a DD for Rs 525.

## CAREER

# Careers in Biotechnology

Biotechnology is one of the most exciting fields today. Essentially, it is the use of living organisms, particularly micro-organisms, in industrial processes. Biotechnology has been used for years in baking, brewing and cheese making, but the industry has been revolutionised in recent years by advances in genetics and genetic engineering. Specially designed micro-organisms are now used to produce a wide variety of drugs and other chemicals, to refine ores and clear up oil slicks. Crops too have been engineered to produce high yielding varieties. The film *Jurassic Park* was a fictional story about genetic engineering but scientists in biotechnology are actually challenging nature in many ways.

Biotechnology is a young science, with limitless possibilities. Since it is a new science, there is possibility of fruitful research which may yield benefits to the human race in times to come. Broadly speaking, it combines two or three sciences and is concerned with three fields: health and medicine, agriculture and animal husbandry and industry.

Living things have genes which give them distinct characteristics, some of them negative. Scientists can tinker with the cells, from micro-organisms to human cells, to remove the negative trait. Using techniques of biochemistry, microbiology, genetics and chemical engineering, biotechnologists can thus draw benefits from properties inherent in nature.

For example, genes in tomatoes can be tampered with to produce a species which does not rot fast. In other crops, qualities of pest or disease resistance can be built in so that the crop can better withstand attacks.

**How to join:** A person wanting to join

a course in biotechnology must have a background of science, though engineers are also preferred. Since the career involves research, one must have an academic bent of mind. One has to be hard working and willing to put in a lot of effort in experiments. A researcher's patience and creativity is also required since some experiments may not work or yield results, while others may require new and innovative procedures since biotechnology is a virgin science.

To join the field of biotechnology, you should have a background of science, that is, biology, chemistry, physics or agriculture. An engineering background would also do, since several industries prefer biotechnologists with knowledge of engineering. Some universities offer the B.Sc in biotechnology which one can join after class 12. One can also do the five-year integrated

M.Tech course at the IIT after class 12.

At the post graduate level, one can do M.Sc, M.Tech, M.Sc (agri) biotechnology or M.Sc (animal) biotechnology. About 19 universities offer these programmes and admit science graduates through a combined biotechnology entrance exam conducted by the JNU. Those who have done B.Sc in physical, biological, agricultural, veterinary and fishery sciences, pharmacy, engineering, technology or medicine can join.

There are other universities and institutes offering courses in this field. Some of these institutes are:

- National Institute of Immunology
- National Dairy Research Institute
- Indian Agricultural Research Institute
- Indian Institute of Science

The programmes are promoted by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

### QUICK QUIZ

Do you have an aptitude for a career in biotechnology?

Answer these eight questions for an indication

1. Do you like doing experiments with tissues of living things?
2. Do you have the patience to work on something that may take two or three days, or even longer, for an experiment? Would you be composed if the expected results do not show up after repeated experiments?
3. Do you like reading the latest scientific books and journals?
4. Do you feel comfortable being in a virgin field where you may discover something and become rich and famous after some years; or that your research for 10 years may not yield anything fruitful?
5. Can you work with fellow scientists as a team?
6. Are you a good researcher: creative and inquisitive, with the ability to look beyond a set of statistics to discover something meaningful?
7. Are you an introvert?
8. Are you fascinated by the science of living things?

If you answered 'yes' to any six of the eight questions, chances are that you will be happy in biotechnology research. For a detailed analysis, see a counsellor.

Another option would be to go abroad. Biotechnology is at the forefront of research in developed countries and a number of institutes offer courses, providing manpower to research laboratories and biotechnology companies which have multiplied in recent times. Post doctoral study programmes are available. The Ministry of Science and Technology awards the Biotechnology Overseas Associateships for advanced research in molecular biology, microbial genetics, gene therapy, virology, tissue culture and so on.

**Personality traits:** To be a biotechnologist, you have to be a good researcher and possess the ability to work with tissues drawn from plants or other living things. You will also have to keep in touch with the latest research being done all over the world, so you must keep in touch with science journals. Since it is a virgin area, a certain amount of creativity is also required.

Also required is patience. Experiments may have to be conducted over a number of days, which may or may not yield the results expected by you. So, while you have the chance of discovering something which is pathbreaking, you may also have the chance in which several years of your research may not yield anything and may go waste.

A word of warning may be in order here. A researcher in India may get a fellowship of around Rs 3,000 per month while the beginning salaries for other professions have gone up considerably in the past few years. There is also the problem that your efforts may not be appreciated by your seniors, since scientific institutions in India have a hard seniority structure. These may be future points of frustration and a person must assess both before joining a career in research. Going abroad may be an option, but it is good to remember that not everybody is able to do so.

**Prospects:** A biotechnologist may work in government institutes and organisations, such as DBT and the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Development of Education, Science and Technology at Thiruvananthapuram. A number of agriculture, dairy and horticulture institutes also exist which would employ biotechnologists. There are also some drug

companies in biotechnology, like Dabur, Ranbaxy, Hindustan Lever, Dr Reddy's Labs which have their R&D units and corporate sector would be another area which have openings.

The starting salary in a research institute would be a fellowship of around Rs 3,000 per month. A qualified biotechnologist would find place in a private company at around Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 per month. If one wants to make more money, then one will have to look at options to go abroad.

At present there is a shortage of trained people in this field. The DBT is trying to promote the subject in schools and colleges. A short-term training for biotechnologists who wish to work in the industry is organised by Biotech Consortium India Ltd.

It may be said that for a person with an academic bent of mind, biotechnology offers a unique opportunity to work in a virgin field. All other branches of science are saturated. Biotechnology is an emerging field all over the world. It is this science which will yield the wonder drugs of tomorrow as also new varieties of plants and animals. Since scientists can patent the fruits of their research, the possibility of making a name and a large fortune is also not ruled out. The area thus is very exciting and has tremendous possibilities. The phenomenal growth of the biotechnology industry has also led to a number of high-paying opportunities.

### The Biotechnology Industry

The biotechnology industry is one of the fastest growing industry of the decade. Valued at Rs 100 crore in 1989, it is expected to be around Rs 3,500 crore by the end of the century. A number of companies have entered the field, some with foreign collaborations, opening tremendous job opportunities. The private sector has increased operations and leapfrogged over the DBT. A biotechnologist need not worry about growth of opportunities in the next few years.

There is the Vittal Mallya Scientific Research Foundation, run by the United Breweries group, which has tied up with a

French firm and the University of Leicester. The Spic Science Foundation is into tissue culture and bio-pesticides and has obtained refinance assistance from NABARD. Another company, Advanced Biomedicals Ltd is into enzyme production. The drug companies which have entered biotech are Cadilla, Wipro Biomed, Lupin Laboratories and Ranbaxy. Gene banks are also being set up and government organisations into it are the National Facility for Plant Tissue Repository and the National Bureau of Plant and Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

State governments of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are developing biotech industry with DBT assistance. The country's first biotech park is in Kerala.

Financial institutions like the IDBI and IFCI have got together to form the Biotech Consortium India Ltd in 1990, to facilitate technology transfer and financial assistance. Institutional support will push up growth of the industry and many more companies will enter the business. Tax benefits are available for companies specialising in biotech, which is boosting the industry.

With so much activity in biotech industry, students can look forward to good job prospects. As research yields more technologies, industry is likely to commercialise them at an increasing pace. Multinational companies are expected to come to India in a big way as the cost of hiring an Indian scientist is much less than his Western counterpart.

With so many laboratories coming up both in the public and private sector, companies will scout campuses to look for talent. The Baroda based Sun Pharmaceuticals advertises abroad for biochemists and biotechnicians.

Though the field is wide open, one may add that as in every other field, it is the committed professional who will find personal career growth. It is therefore important to be good in one's field.

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**Addresses:** Department of Biotechnology, Block 2, 7th floor, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

National Institute of Immunology, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110 067.

## PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

# Change Attitude to Change Self

**T**HE man who thinks too high of himself makes a small pack. There is a wealth of psychological information in this apparently simple aphorism. The world is brimming with small-heads who pretend to be big-heads. In fact, they are swollen above the neck! Psychologists call them egoists. And for good measure.

The Webster's dictionary defines such a person as one: viewing everything in relation to himself; self-centred. *Philosophically*, this theory is based on the belief that the world exists or can be known only in relation to the individual's mind.

Egoism is the tendency to be self-centred or to consider only oneself and one's interests which is nothing but selfishness. Conceit is yet another form of it.

Ethically speaking, it is the doctrine that self-interest is the proper goal of all human actions. This is opposed to the philosophy of altruism.

This column purports to deal with egopsychology, functions of the ego and their role on personality development and emotional disorder.

The egocentric is under the impression that he can manage his affairs well. He stands supreme in a little world of his own. Whether he believes it or not, he acts as if the whole universe revolves around him and he gives the impression that if anything happened to him the rest of life would be jerked to a stop.

Far from being different and unsure of himself he is full of self-importance. In fact, he is "in love with himself". He is self-centred and all his interests revolve around his own ego.

Its extremist form is: "I am God."

### Me-deep

**I**N conversation, he constantly refers to "I", "me", "mine". Nothing else seems to matter to him except what he does, what he says, what he thinks, what he owns.

He believes, really, that other people should be as passionately interested in his affairs as he is himself. If they make it obvious that they are not, he is likely to conclude that they lack the intelligence to appreciate his projects.

Alternatively, the egotist may feel hurt or insulted.

He tries to manage everything himself, telling everybody else what to do and how to do it; forcing his opinions, beliefs and prejudices upon others.

Consequently, the egocentric has few friends, for those who would have been his friends, quickly grow tired of his *overpowering* personality and influence.

They retreat from his presence with obvious disgust, depending upon their own temperament. Even this, however, is not likely to upset a confirmed egocentric for long.

His ego does get a shock, but who bothers? He is quite self-sufficient and can get along well enough without people who reject him. If he were to bother, he would be no egoist!

When we refer to a "self-conscious" person we usually mean somebody who is shy, retiring and devoid of self-confidence. The kind of person who is afraid to stand upon his own feet, afraid to make decisions, afraid even to acknowledge his own talents and general ability.

The egocentric is (wrongly) bubbling over with self-confidence and makes exaggerated, mostly claims in his own favour. He too is self-conscious. He is conscious only of himself!

He is an unpleasant character—an ir-

ritating type who makes your skin crawl. In order to boost his own ego he tries to make others feel inferior.

### Limitations

**T**HIS means that the egotist is not so sure of himself as he pretends. Secretly, he is conscious of his limitations, but he is afraid or ashamed to admit them openly.

Yet, he manages to *bluff* himself that he is invincible. He acts as a domineering self. If he has a spark of ability, he is likely to succeed where more zestless men fail.

Let's look at the reverse side of it. The egotist is making use of a psychological law. By acting as if he were supremely self-confident and efficient, he attracts success. No matter how intelligent, he is unlikely to profit by his talents if he believes himself to be inferior.

He visualises himself as being bigger than he is, and therefore this exaggerated picture of himself tends to materialise in fact. If you keep telling people how wonderful you are, they will eventually believe it. This, in turn, sets forces in motion which help the egocentric become as big as he imagines himself to be!

But there is a rub. Paradoxically, the egocentric is not grown up. For there is nobody more egocentric than the infant! Infant's interests are absolutely self-centred. Its interest is concerned with its ego. The concern it has for others is related only to the extent that others boost its own ego.

The infant and the adult egocentric live in a world that begins and ends with them. They are like the fond mother and her baby. When the baby coos, the mother believes that it indicates that the baby loves her.



### Infant-like

**F**ACT is that the infant merely wants the pleasurable sensation of being petted and fondled. The same is the case with the self-centred.

With the passage of time he becomes exocentric instead of egocentric. It enables him to develop the ability and the desire to show concern for others as well as for himself.

This is a significant step towards adulthood. Any extreme example of an egocentric adult indicates that there has been some psychological blockage in his or her natural development. Such a person remains emotionally immature.

Only a mature person is capable of unselfish activity. The reason why as many relationships fail is because one of the people is psychologically immature.

It is amazing that so many relationships weather life's storms without disaster. Were it not for the infinite patience, and understanding of some, life would suffer badly.

The egocentric does everything possessively, selfishly and jealously. No relationship can endure this without strain and consequent collapse.

Many of us are tainted with egotism. We are too concerned about ourselves. We are reluctant to consider the other. We are indifferent and apathetic towards the feelings of others.

Loyalty is extolled as a virtue. It is fine and honourable and perfectly natural to be loyal to someone. It is when we say "to hell with the world" that we trespass rationality.

Many businessmen are egocentrics. They are consumed by ambition, not so much to serve the society but to satisfy their own ego. They forge ahead regardless of others' feelings.

Self-righteous people are egotists. They are unpleasant hypocrites, with their holier than thou attitude. They hide their own faults by condemning others.

### Self-glorification

**T**HIS is a form of self-glorification as is the case with religious fanatics. They are keen on religion, only in the hope of saving their own precious souls. They forget others too have a right to love their own religion.

Hypochondriacs are another example of egocentrics. If doctors find nothing physically wrong with them, hypochondriacs will continue to imagine all manner of symptoms and ailments.

Other egocentrics are those unhappy people who suffer from a persecution mania. They believe that enemies are plotting secretly to sabotage their interests and even to destroy them.

One would be well-advised not to dwell upon such depressing thoughts. Replace them at once by healthy, optimistic beliefs.

Strangely we often express our own egotism quite unconsciously, never dreaming that it is one of our failings. It is easy enough to recognise the bombastic type of egotism and condemn it in others.

When we remember other forms of egotism, we probably will confess that we, too, share their human eccentricity, in one way or another.

### Solution

**S**OLUTION lies in minimising and overcoming egotism. In the early stages of self-treatment immense patience is needed.

Change the direction of your attention and interests through yourself to others.

In time, if you really want to, it is possible to cultivate more unselfish habits and to show greater interest, consideration and understanding towards our fellow-men and women.

Then, and then only shall you find your real self.

William James said that human beings, by changing the inner attitude of the mind, can change the outer aspects of their life.

Freud showed the importance of experiences in childhood in shaping the ego-neurotic personality. It is not, as supposed earlier, one particular experience which is responsible for the condition. It is an attitude to life which is built with possibly that experience as a core. Freud proved that this behaviour results from conflict between the urges and the pressure to conform to social pulls.

In a way, we all have such conflicts. There is hostility, self-love, avarice, wild sex urges which have to be brought under control. So has to be this abnormality—the swollen ego. This is essential to live in peace with ourselves and others.

The power to control, to sublimate depends upon having faith that in spite of wrong feelings there is something essentially right about ourselves and others. The area of rightness has to be discovered and then enlarged. Otherwise one's aim in life becomes an attempt to hide oneself and to shield oneself.

Quite often the ego-stricken person has been mothered (smothered) by a possessive love and hence restricted. Nowhere is it more clear than when considering the neurotic way of life.

The egoist is essentially a thwarted personality. He is, in fact, making excessive demands on others because of a basic sense of insignificance which can be offset by exposing the past.

## IAS/PCS Prelims / Mains 1997

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## VOCABULARY

# Improve Your Word Power

1. **aplomb:** (a) pride (b) poise (c) appreciation (d) proposal.
2. **boo:** (a) bark (b) disapprove (c) admire (d) boast.
3. **calumny:** (a) defamation (b) description (c) proof (d) discussion.
4. **daredevil:** (a) quiet (b) scholarly (c) bachelor (d) rash.
5. **ecstasy:** (a) exploration (b) exploitation (c) exit (d) joy.
6. **fret:** (a) feel (b) touch (c) agitate (d) pull.
7. **goof:** (a) climb (b) fall (c) fail (d) recover.
8. **hone:** (a) favour (b) sharpen (c) nourish (d) cultivate.
9. **impeccable:** (a) faultless (b) reckless (c) useless (d) childish.
10. **jeune:** (a) young (b) old (c) interesting (d) dull.
11. **kosher:** (a) false (b) proud (c) genuine (d) humble.
12. **luscious:** (a) sweet (b) bitter (c) harmful (d) indifferent.
13. **mutatis-mutandis:** (a) timely payments (b) suitable changes (c) delayed reports (d) counter charges.
14. **nascent:** (a) newly married (b) newly discovered (c) age-old belief (d) not fully developed.
15. **obsolete:** (a) discarded (b) precious (c) cheap (d) free.
16. **parochial:** (a) rational (b) sentimental (c) narrow (d) universal.
17. **retaliate:** (a) remember (b) rejoice (c) return (d) retort.
18. **safari:** (a) journey (b) joke (c) negotiation (d) agreement.
19. **tarry:** (a) depart (b) stay (c) steal (d) create.
20. **upbraid:** (a) rebuke (b) ignore (c) forgive (d) forget.

### ANSWERS

1. **aplomb:** (b) poise, assurance, self-confidence.  
—The key to success in all walks of life lies in the fact how much *aplomb* a person has in his personality or character.
2. **boo:** (b) disapprove, show contempt.  
—For all his broken promises, the politician was *booed* off the stage and shown the door in no time.
3. **calumny:** (a) defamation, false statement, scandal.  
—The Press Council takes to task such newspapers as spread *calumnies* about public men in power or in opposition.
4. **daredevil:** (d) rash, reckless.  
—It is the height of foolishness to be *daredevil* on the racing track.
5. **ecstasy:** (d) joy, bliss, inspiration.  
—The purpose of all fine and performing arts is to give *ecstasy* both to the viewers as well as to the performers.
6. **fret:** (c) agitate, irritate, worry.

—Some persons are given to *fretting* and fuming over trifles.

7. **goof:** (c) fail, make a mess.

—She had a great chance, but she *goofed* again i.e., failed to take the opportunity.

8. **hone:** (b) sharpen.

—She needs to *hone* her art and chisel her language and learn the virtues of understatement, suggestion and symbolism.

9. **impeccable:** (a) faultless, excellent.

—Although she has attained remarkable success in the world of literature, her manners remain *impeccable*, to say the least.

10. **jeune:** (d) dull, uninteresting, childish.

—When he started to write, he failed to find a publisher who could publish his *jeune* writings or compositions.

11. **kosher:** (c) genuine, legitimate.

—The editor was in search of a real *kosher* article, not just any old rubbish for his paper.

12. **luscious:** (a) sweet, delicious, sensually attractive.

—My mouth began to water when I saw a number of *luscious* dishes laid on the dining table.

13. **mutatis-mutandis:** (b) with appropriate changes.

—What I have said about the army, also applies, *mutatis-mutandis*, to the navy.

14. **nascent:** (d) not fully developed.

—The State government has announced a number of concessions for *nascent* industries located in the backward areas.

15. **obsolete:** (a) outworn, discarded, dead.

—Most of the rituals associated with marriage have become *obsolete* with the passage of time.

16. **parochial:** (c) narrow, local.

—Far from furthering national integration, the break-up of Assam into several States seems to have fed *parochial* and xenophobic forces.

17. **retaliate:** (d) retort, strike back, avenge.

—If we restrict the import of consumer goods from the West, the latter is going to *retaliate* in no uncertain terms.

18. **safari:** (a) journey, expedition.

—The Europeans have a great passion to go on (a) *safari* for the sake of fun and frolic.

19. **tarry:** (b) stay, wait, delay.

—Having walked the whole day, the merry-makers were tired and needed to *tarry* awhile at the country inn for relaxation.

20. **upbraid:** (a) chide, rebuke, admonish.

—The parents *upbraided* their son for failing the same examination twice.

## DEBATE; DISCUSSION

# What is Wrong with Holding the Miss World Contest?

A controversy has been raked up by the Miss World Contest planned to be held in Bangalore by the Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd. Though beauty contests are held in every city, as also the prestigious Miss India event, this time a number of organisations have jumped into the fray to protest against it. While the protestors say that such events go against Indian culture, others point out that there is nothing wrong in hosting it, as it projects India as a modern nation. Should India stand by and be content to send entries to the beauty contests but refuse to host them? Can India's culture be saved by refusing to hold international music concerts and beauty events in the country?

In this issue, we debate the issue whether the protests against the Miss World are justified. Does it really degrade women and our culture, as argued by those who are protesting? Or does it add to India's image as an emerging nation?

**Mr A** Though beauty contests are held in almost all cities of India, the Miss World contest planned to be held in Bangalore has attracted some of the most vehement protests. It is said that it is against our culture and some people do not want it to be held in the country. The organisers have in fact shifted the swimwear round to another country. The question arises as to what is so bad in the Miss World contest that all kinds of activists have jumped into the fray. After all, it has been held for years and Indian girls have participated in it. If it was against our culture, why send our entry at all? Does shifting of the swimwear round protect our culture? We should in

fact be proud that an international event like Miss World is being held in the country. The protests show our hypocrisy and will undoubtedly make us the laughing stock of the world.

**Mr B** I am reminded of the story where an Indian takes his scorpions in an open box in an international competition and when asked why they don't escape, he answers that they are Indians: if one of them tries to get out, the others pull him down. Busybodies of all shades are protesting against an event that we should be proud of. At the bottom is the jealousy—how dare a fellow Indian organise such a big event? Everyone wants to pull him down and this is unfortunate. When will we ever grow up? The protests signify the pathological fear we have about anything happening in the country. I am at a loss to understand how they are against our culture when thousands of beauty contests are held every year all over the country. How are they acceptable in our culture and Miss World isn't? What is in Miss World that is so harmful?

**Mr C** You have to accept that girls parading around half-naked is against our culture. We have a rich culture and traditions. Parading girls represents the decadent culture of the West. We should not be part of it. The protests are not out of jealousy but because beauty contests are detrimental to our social fabric which is already under assault. It also represents cultural invasion. The very fact that you think there is nothing wrong in it shows how you have been

brainwashed. We should not allow any such contests to be held on our soil and stop entries when they are held outside. We should protect our culture and values from the Western onslaught.

**Mr D** So what should be done? Should we impose *purdah* on our women, like the Taliban in Afghanistan? On the one hand we want equal opportunities for women but we want to control what they should wear and what they should do. Is this not hypocrisy? Moreover, this talk of culture and values is becoming rather tiresome. Culture is not something static, it has to change with society. How long will we keep talking about our rich culture when the only culture we see around us is that of corruption and exploitation? A beauty contest will not degrade it further. We should not use the argument of culture to stop modernising. That is like being like the Taliban, who think they are protecting their Islamic culture by imposing restrictions on women.

**Mr E** Imposing restrictions on women perhaps comes out of our primitive desire to suppress women and I am against it. But the opposition to international beauty contests is that they are not about beauty but about selling products. The markets in the developed world are saturated and the multinational companies are looking for new markets. What better way than to arouse the desire for beauty in our women? You can see that the holding of the Miss World contest coincides with

aggressive marketing of cosmetics and other products in India. I would say this is a devious method of colonising the minds of Indians. So the opposition should not be on the basis of culture but that we are being taken in by such events and becoming slaves to Western marketing gimmicks. The Miss World contest will undoubtedly push beauty products and impose Western notions of beauty and behaviour upon us. Slowly, our women will stop looking Indian but begin to look like copies of Western women. I think that it is the worst form of colonisation and should be stopped.

**Mr A** Though I agree with you, I wonder if the colonisation can be stopped by such methods. Even if it is not held in our country, images of the event are beamed into our homes by television. So holding the event on Indian soil is immaterial as far as your argument goes. Foreign companies can also dominate markets by using the media. That is why I cannot understand why there are so many protests against holding Miss World contest in Bangalore. Either we become like Taliban and black out all signals coming from the West or if we cannot do that, let us globalise our thinking.

**Mr C** I would like to say something about the culture that we keep harping about. We have had one of the most liberal cultures that celebrated feminine beauty. Carvings in our ancient temples stand testimony to the fact that we were a liberal country. Victorian prudery was imposed upon us by the British. Ironically, the British have come out of their prudery, but we are still stuck in the Victorian era imposed upon us. As the world has moved ahead, it is foolish indeed to raise issues of culture and protest against a beauty contest. There is nothing vulgar in such events: our movies do worse when it comes to vulgarity. So let us not keep harping about culture and get stuck in the Victorian era. Changes in society are like the flow of a river. We

should accept them as they come. To try and stop the flow would be foolish indeed.

**Mr D** Something must be said about the protestors also. It seems they protest against anything that is organised. In every city there are busybodies who want to gain some publicity by raising some issues, whether it makes any sense or not. Certain urban non-government organisations (NGOs) want to be in the media all the time. Demonstrations are organised by them not to change attitudes of people but merely to be in the media. Thus, we have NGOs organising human chains, poster competitions and street plays on issues ranging from environment to child labour to beauty contests. What we have are activists, not reformers. They organise protests with one eye on the media, not because they sincerely feel something is bad in society. Bringing about change is not their objective, making a nuisance is. In fact, the 'protest industry' is one of the fastest growing in the country. If the media stopped giving importance to busybodies, these protests would decline by themselves.

**Mr B** I agree with you that certain organisations and individuals are in it merely to gain publicity. It is unfortunate that the voluntary sector has degenerated into nuisance mongering. The opposition to Miss World is also a result of this, not out of concern for women or how they are portrayed. Nor do they think about the consequences of their actions. For instance, it is reported that one organisation is planning to highlight dowry deaths in the country when the contest is being held. What purpose would that serve, except for lowering India's prestige? If we want to stop dowry deaths, we have to do it ourselves; getting it published in a foreign magazine will not make any difference whatsoever. So I think that the protests are not only misplaced but work against the image of the country.

**Mr C** There are many things that are wrong in Indian society. If the activists want to do something useful, they should do something about the treatment of widows in Mathura and Varanasi, or the young girls trapped into prostitution in Delhi and Mumbai or even about the *Devadasi* system which encourages prostitution in the name of the goddess. Society sanctions these things and there are no protests heard against these social evils. But the Miss World becomes such a huge evil that social organisations start protesting against it. This is nothing but hypocrisy. Rather than fight for the "purity" of our women, let us do something about the things that defile that very purity. As for the point about foreign companies selling their products through such methods, if we have chosen the path of globalising, these things will naturally follow. Had we tried alternate development, we could perhaps have a model that kept such things at bay. If we are to integrate with the rest of the world, we should not only accept these things but try to organise them more so that the world begins to see us as a modern nation rather than one steeped in tradition and hypocrisy.

**Mr A** After so many views, the conclusion we have reached is that there is nothing wrong in holding the Miss World contest. We cannot remain stuck in the Victorian past imposed on us by a foreign power. We have to begin to be counted in the modern nations of the world and such events help us do that. As for busybodies who keep harping on our culture and keep protesting on something or the other, I think we should pack them off to Afghanistan, where they can protect their culture together with the Taliban. Such movements do not empower women but do just the reverse. Finally, I would finish by reminding that Aishwarya Rai could achieve world-wide fame only by becoming Miss World. Here is a platform for our beautiful ladies and we should not deny it to them.

# General Studies

## Solved Questions on Expected Topics for the General Studies Paper

**Q. 1. Coalition governments at the Centre are going to be there for quite some time. Do you visualise any problems due to coalition governments in future? Briefly discuss. What role do you foresee for the regional parties in future?**

**Ans. 1.** Coalition governments are going to be the order of the day in the years to come. With the hitherto dominant national party, Congress losing ground in most parts of the country and most of the parties joining hands against the BJP, it appears that in future the coalition governments at the Centre are likely to stay. In a political system which adopts multi-party system, coalitions do take place when no single political party gets clear majority. In India the first ever experiment in coalition was after 1977 elections. But that was a different coalition, as various political groups sought election under the name of one political party. Subsequent coalition governments have been different, with the political parties seeking partners mainly after the elections, depending upon the situation.

Coalition governments are likely to pose many political and ethical problems to the polity of the country. It is only in a coalition government that the leader of a political group having less than 50 MPs can become the Prime Minister. Many problems are likely to be faced due to continuing coalitions, some of which are as under:

(a) Coalitions may be politically unstable. With the government depending on the support of other parties at national level, it is likely to be unstable, particularly when the same political groups are opposing each other in the States. Any faction withdrawing the support at any stage can pose serious problems for the government.

(b) Political uncertainty posed by the coalition governments may affect the economic policy and the process of development. At a crucial juncture when the country is passing through the process of structural reforms and economic liberalisation, political uncertainty seriously affects the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Institutional Investment, aid from international funding agencies and export-import policy and performance. Even the industrial growth rate gets affected by such political uncertainty.

(c) Coalitions also result in political horse-trading and cor-

ruption. Bribery for seeking support has already come to the fore in the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) bribery case where huge sums of money were allegedly paid to seek the support of JMM MPs. Similar corruption in the State governments has also come to the fore.

(d) Disillusionment of the voter and subsequent weakening of the democracy may also be a consequence. A voter often finds that a party, which never got the mandate to form the government, forming a coalition government, or the party which opposed the coalition partners during the election, joining the government, or supporting it from outside. This not only results in disillusionment but also weakens the roots of democracy and faith of the people in the democratic system.

### Role of Regional Parties:

In the current era of coalitions, regional political parties have a greater role to play. There has been a phenomenal growth of regional parties, particularly after the poor performance of the national parties. The regional parties, therefore, have a large and more important role to play in the current political scenario. The national parties

have to give due respect and importance to these regional and local parties, which have an increasingly larger role to play in forming coalitions at the centre. Even at the national level, the regional political parties may play an important role in forming the governments. As a result, the States are likely to get more attention, resulting in a better deal for them, both economically and politically.

**Q. 2. Mahatma Gandhi was a great supporter of rural small-scale industries and self-reliance of the villages. What are the inconsistencies in the new economic policy with the Gandhian philosophy on industrialisation? How would you reconcile between the two?**

**Ans. 2.** Mahatma Gandhi was a firm believer that India lives in villages. He had strong views on the rapid development of the villages. The development which he envisaged was not only economic, but social and political as well. Politically, he wanted strong Panchayati Raj institutions, converting villages into small repub-

*This feature has been specially prepared to help the aspiring candidates of Civil Services (Mains) examination have an idea of type of questions that are asked in the General Studies paper and the way these questions are to be answered. While in previous issues we had given selected questions from previous examinations, this issue incorporates topics which our experts feel might be asked in this year's examination.*

lies within the Indian federation. Socially, he dreamt of social upliftment of socially backward classes and communities including the scheduled castes. He, however, had strong views on the economy of the villages. His dream was to have economically self-reliant villages. Gandhiji was a great supporter of small-scale and cottage industries. He felt that every village must be able to produce goods and services for its day-to-day use. Though he was not opposed to mechanisation, he detested unmindful mechanisation. Human resources are available in plenty in India and Gandhiji always professed that machines should not be used to replace the human beings.

The current policy of industrialisation and structural reforms relies on heavy industrialisation to improve productivity and overall performance of the industrial sector. At the micro-level, a particular unit may result in displacement of labour, but the supporters of mass industrialisation claim that the newly created jobs outnumber the persons rendered jobless. It is also argued that increasing mechanisation increases the production and productivity to a great extent. Multinational companies with their state-of-the-art technology have also stormed the Indian economy. Rather than adopting labour intensive technologies, we are following the western countries by adopting capital intensive technologies, designed in the West where human resources are scarce. Most of the industrialisation is resulting in steady destruction of small-scale, cottage and village industries.

Another inconsistency with Gandhian philosophy is that the new policy makes no efforts to make the villages self-reliant. The villages, instead, have to rely heavily on industrial products produced outside the village. As a result, the self-reliance of the villages has remained a pipe-dream. Moreover, industrialisation and mechanisation is replacing humans with machines. Locally produced raw materials which could be used in cottage and village industries, are no longer being used, resulting in loss of employment opportunities in villages, and lack of remunerative prices for raw materials produced locally.

Due to the above mentioned inconsistencies, it appears that the new economic policy runs contrary to Gandhian philosophy. But it would be appropriate to consider the political and socio-economic context in which Gandhian philosophy on industrialisation was evolved. Gandhi had seen India in her poorest days. Years of political and economic subjugation had shattered Indian economy at the time of independence. Economic exploitation of the country had demolished the rural artisans and cottage industries. In absence of any domestic industries, the country was made dependent upon imports from Europe for industrial goods. Unemployment and poverty was rampant. To overcome these problems, Gandhi evolved his theory and philosophy on rural industrialisation.

While the government decided to go in for heavy industrialisation from the Second Five Year Plan it also provided encouragement and incentives to the village, cottage and small-scale industries. As a result, even in today's era of heavy industrialisation, the small-scale sector contributes over 30 per cent to the total exports of the country and also provides maxi-

mum employment in the organised industrial sector. In the modern-day context, the new technologies are admittedly from the West and are capital intensive. If any country sticks to rural and labour intensive technologies, it is not likely to survive in the highly competitive world market. So what is required, is a blend of modern heavy industries with small-scale and cottage industries in the rural areas. The Gandhian concept still holds good today in areas in which highly productive labour intensive technologies are available. We must adopt such technologies. In total, the rapid industrialisation and heavy mechanisation should not seek to increase production by displacing the existing labour force. A balanced blend of the two would certainly result in a reconciliation of the Gandhian philosophy with modern policy.

**Q. 3. (a)** Where and when were the XXVIth Olympics held? Briefly describe the history of Olympics. Also describe the quantum of participation and sports that were played in XXVI Olympics. What was the mascot for these games? When and where are the next Olympics scheduled to be held?

**(b)** Give reasons for poor performance of India in sports in general and XXVIth Olympics in particular. What measures do you suggest to overcome the problems?

**Ans. 3. (a)** The XXVIth Olympics were held in Atlanta (USA) from July 17, 1996. Modern Olympics were initiated in the year 1896 in Athens (Greece), exactly a century ago. It was in 1875 that the ruins of a stadium in Olympia were discovered and the idea to hold a global sports meet was mooted. Prior to that, during the ancient times, the first recorded Olympics contest took place in Greece in 776 B.C. During these ancient games, sports like foot-race, wrestling, boxing and chariot race were held. Slowly these games started losing their attraction and were abandoned in the year 394 AD. During the past one hundred years of modern Olympics, several new records have been set up.

During the Atlanta Olympics, 197 countries of the world participated. There were 26 sports and 37 disciplines in which the contests took place. About 10,000 athletes participated. In all, there were 1838 medals awarded. United States of America (USA) topped the medal tally with 101 medals including 44 Golds, 32 Silvers and 25 Bronze, followed by Russia, Germany, China and France. Three new disciplines were added to the existing ones, during the Atlanta Olympics, namely Mountain Biking, Beach Volleyball and Women's Softball.

Every Olympic game has a mascot. Generally, the mascots are based on the animals of the area in which the Olympics are held. The mascot for the latest Olympics was the first of its kind. It was a computer generated image and resembled nothing on earth. It was blue in colour, with white teeth, red sneakers, lightning bolts for eyebrows and Olympic rings on its tail and head. Earlier named as "Whatizit", its name was later changed to "Izzy". The next Olympics are scheduled to be held in Sydney (Australia) in 2000 AD.

**Ans. 3. (b)** After every sporting event, when Indian players fail to perform in the international arena, a question is asked—



what is wrong with our system? Why does the second-most populous country in the world, representing 1/5th of the total humanity, fail to produce sportsmen who could win medals at international events? In this regard, the Atlanta Olympics were no exception. Most of the national champions failed to live up to the expectations. With the exception of Leander Paes, who won a bronze medal in tennis, the performance of the Olympics team forced the nation to hang her head in shame. In event after event, Indian squads disappointed. Some of the reasons for such a pathetic performance can be enumerated as under:

(a) We are a pure country. Sports are considered to be luxury which only the affluent can afford. Most of the rural poor are so preoccupied with earning their livelihood that they hardly have any time to think of sports.

(b) Games or sports is not an organised activity in India. There is no aptitude testing for the young and the facility of scientific coaching is also limited. It is only when a person with exceptional natural abilities comes to the fore, that attention is paid towards him/her

(c) Political interference at higher levels affects the genuine sports persons. The selection is not always made on merit and the regional "quota" system often results in selection of teams which are not the best

(d) Sports is neither offered nor accepted as a career in India. Most of the promising sportsmen have to look for a job to survive. It is not possible to keep playing the sport, in a job. Most sportsmen aim at joining a decent job against the sports quota.

(e) In India, sports are generally taken up at an age at which sportsmen from the Western world win medals for their nations. The advantage of years of training and flexibility of the body is thus not available to most sportsmen in India.

(f) Lack of facilities and infrastructure is another important reason. For example, we have a limited number of astro turfs for playing hockey while countries like Australia and Germany have a large number of such facilities.

There are many ways in which this problem can be tackled. Some of the suggestions are as under:

(a) There is an urgent need for organising sports and talent search at the national level by the government. In India, thousands of persons may be having the talent to excel in sports, but are not discovered. A well-defined organisational set up is required so that the best possible talent in each game is identified at a very young age.

(b) After identifying the talent, world class coaching and training in the concerned sport should be provided to the identified persons. Their cost of living and training should be borne by the State. In addition, irrespective of their performance at the international sporting events, they should be assured of a decent career and living after their sporting career is over.

(c) Another urgent need is to develop world class sporting infrastructure in the country. Unless the sportsmen get a chance to train and practice in international conditions, it is not possible for them to produce their best performance during the events.

(d) Sports are required to be projected as a career in India.

While in many countries, sports are adopted as a life-long career, in India this activity is amateur in nature. Though sponsors are available for international events and world cups, hardly any sponsorship is available for domestic sporting events. This vacuum has also resulted in giving an amateur and casual look to most of the domestic sporting events

(e) Sports Authority of India should be revamped. Prominent and outstanding sports personalities of yester-year should be made office bearers and administrators in this organisation. Even the chairmen and the members of the selection committees should qualify some pre-conditions and should themselves have achieved reasonably high levels of proficiency in the sport concerned.

(f) Efforts should be made to restrict the rampant politics in sports. The Sports Minister should be a prominent and outstanding sportsman of his/her times and should be nominated to Rajya Sabha before being made a minister for a fixed term of 6 years.

**Q. 4. What are the existing legislations in India on water disputes among various States? Does the riparian rights doctrine holds good even in solving inter-State water disputes within the country? Do you think that the proposal to interlink all major rivers of the country would help in solving such disputes? What benefits would accrue if such a project is implemented in India?**

**Ans. 4.** Disputes between various States in India over sharing of waters is a very common feature in India. The recent disputes over waters between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and waters of Kaveri between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are a few examples. As per the Constitution of India, water falls in the State List and States are competent to take their own decisions with regard to water. The Central government has no jurisdiction to legislate in this regard. But the Union government is allowed to legislate for regulating and developing inter-State rivers and river valleys. Under this provision, Parliament enacted the inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956, which provides for setting up of Tribunals for settling various inter-State water disputes. In addition, the National Water Policy was approved in 1987 by the National Water Resources Council. This policy provides for planning at the State-level, requiring the State governments to prepare comprehensive plans to harness irrigation and water potential optimally. Another important feature of the policy is that water should be made available to water-deficient areas from other areas, which includes transfer of water from one river basin to the other, based on the overall national interest. This policy does not have legislative force behind it, yet it is an important administrative tool on the basis of which various Water Tribunals can decide the disputes.

It was believed that riparian doctrine was applicable only in the international water disputes. As per the international definition of riparian owner, a State is entitled to benefit from the natural flow of a water source flowing through it. Such a State is also entitled to receive water from its immediate upstream neighbour without any material change in its quality and quantity. Such States are required to pass on the water to the down-stream neighbour. In India, immediately after the independence, many



irrigation projects were initiated and a concept called "drainage or river basin" was evolved. This concept recognised all the States in the basin of a particular river, as basin States which indirectly bestowed and recognised their status of being riparian states. Various water-dispute Tribunals have recognised this fact but many upstream States refuse to recognize the rights of the down-stream States and disallow them the benefits which are available otherwise to the riparian States.

There is an old proposal, also popularly known as "Dastur Plan", which aims at linking all the major river systems in the country. Prime Minister Mr Deve Gowda has indicated in one of his recent speeches that the government would consider this plan to interlink all major river systems. The cost of such a project would be enormous, but if implemented, it is likely to resolve most of the water disputes, ensuring adequate water supply to almost all the States.

In addition to solving inter-State water disputes, such an ambitious plan would solve many other problems. The problem of floods in many parts of the country is a recurring problem, which would get solved if a wider and bigger channel for flow of water is available. The problem of drought and low agricultural productivity would also be solved to a great extent, as irrigation facilities could be created by many States when the water is available. An additional advantage could be development of cheaper and quicker means of transport in the form of water transportation. Development of fisheries could be another benefit which can accrue to the country.

**Q. 5. Account for Public Sector Reforms in India. Do you think that the Public Sector has been able to achieve its objectives? What additional reforms do you suggest?**

**Ans. 5.** During the past years, a realisation has come that the public sector has not been able to live upto the expectations of the country. Several measures to reform this ailing segment of the economy were taken by the previous government and several others have been initiated by the present United Front Government. As on 31.3.91, the total number of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) was 246 with a total investment of Rs 1,13,234 crore, out of which 236 PSUs were operational with employed capital of Rs 1,01,702 crore. The rate of return on the capital employed in the public sector is likely to be 1.8 per cent during the current financial year. Reforms introduced in the PSUs so far include the following:

(a) A system of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been introduced under which the management of a PSU enters into MoU with the government and undertakes to achieve self-defined and self-imposed targets on profitability turnover and production. The government undertakes to provide full autonomy to the PSU concerned and also provides the financial and administrative support.

(b) The government also decided to disinvest 49 per cent equity of selected PSUs with a view to introduce private control and professional management in these units. Upto the end of 1995-96, a sum of Rs 10,500 crore had been disinvested.

(c) A voluntary retirement scheme was introduced for PSU employees. Under this scheme, a total of 75,000 workers have so far sought voluntary retirement. With a view to protect the interest of the workers and provide a social safety net for them, a National Renewal Fund (NRF) was set up in 1972. The aim of NRF was to ensure re-training and re-deployment of workers opting for voluntary retirement, and provide them with counselling facilities. Upto 1994-95, Rs 800 crore had been released out of the NRF.

(d) Provisions of Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA) were extended to the PSUs in December 1992. As a result, even sick PSUs can be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(e) The government has set up a disinvestment commission. The aim is to streamline the process of disinvestment. The commission would identify the PSUs and the percentage of equity to be disinvested, by advising time, mode and price of the shares to be disinvested.

The public sector was introduced in the economy after independence to achieve a host of objectives. It was the expression of India's resolve to have a mixed economy and retaining control over key and strategic industries with a view to quicken the pace of industrialisation. Balanced regional growth and government investment in low-profit and long-gestation projects were two main objectives. Social ownership of economic resources, employment generation and infrastructure creation were some of the other objectives. Profit-orientation in the form of generating surplus to be used for further development of the country during the later years was the underlying objective. But today the performance of the PSUs is judged only by their profitability. Infrastructure created, import substitution and export promotion and employment generated by them is generally ignored. If their performance is to be judged truly, these indirect benefits provided by them to the Indian economy would also have to be measured and accounted for. Hence, to say that the PSUs have failed to achieve all their objectives, would be a wrong statement. Admittedly, PSUs have failed to achieve the objective of profitability, yet their contribution to the economy and its industrialisation has been enormous. However, the reforms already introduced are yet to yield the desired results. The performance of PSUs does not indicate any material change from the past. It is suggested that the following additional reforms be introduced so that desired results are obtained:

(a) The mode of privatisation should be altered and even if a single individual owner or a company wants to take over a PSU by purchasing its shares, it should be allowed, as it would certainly introduce accountability and professional management in the PSUs.

(b) Disinvestment should not be with a view only to generate additional revenue for the State. The newly constituted commission should come out with more innovative methods of disinvestment.

(c) To introduce the professionals, direct recruitment of professionally and technically qualified manpower at all the levels of

management should be allowed. In addition, PSU managers and staff should be allowed to have some tenures or on-the-job training programmes in the innovative private sector companies, so that they can acquaint themselves with the latest management techniques adopted by them.

(d) Additional measures are required to be taken to ensure more accountability, professionalism and profitability of the PSUs. Moreover, interference by the politicians and government bureaucracy should be reduced.

**Q. 6. Account for the rise and growth of communalism in India during the British regime. Also describe the causes of partition of India.**

**Ans. 6.** Growth of communalism in India during the British rule was not the result of differences between Hindus and Muslims, but due to the disintegrating and dividing policies of the British government. Initially, after the establishment of the British rule, relations between the Muslims and the British were strained. This resulted from the political struggle between the Muslim rulers of these times and the British. The revolt of 1857 aggravated the situation. The British described it as an event in which the Muslims tried to dislodge them from India. During the period of revolt, the British tried to arouse strong feelings of Hindus against the Muslims.

After the Indian National Congress was established and the nationalist movement started gaining ground, it was realised by the British that Hindus could pose a greater danger to them. Moreover, they also realised that if Indians were united against them, it would be difficult for them to survive in India. Hence they deliberately adopted a policy, which popularly came to be known as the "policy of divide and rule". Towards the later half of 19th century, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan contributed a lot in bringing the Muslims and the British closer. One of the earliest efforts to divide India on communal lines was the partition of Bengal in 1905. The aim was to divide the Indians, as both the communities agitated against this decision. The first successful attempt on these lines was the introduction of Communal Electorate System in the Act of 1909. Prior to this, establishment of All India Muslim League was another step which further divided the Indian society on communal lines. The international events after 1911 again forged the unity among the communities, who unitedly opposed the British government's move to remove the institution of Caliph in Turkey.

Subsequent developments continued to widen the wedge between the Hindus and the Muslims. The Mopla Rebellion in Malabar in 1921 aroused communal passions, with communal riots taking place in many parts of the country. Again in 1927, the Congress opposed the Simon Commission, while the Muslim League did not cooperate with Congress. Disagreeing with the Nehru Report on the demand for complete independence, the Muslim League put forth its "Fourteen Points" which were mainly aimed at securing special position for different religions. Similar deadlock continued during the Second Round Table Conference. During the thirties, communal passions grew even more speedily

and it was during the 1940 Annual Session at Lahore that the Muslim League categorically asserted its demand for a separate State for Indian Muslims. After this, the British government openly encouraged the Muslims to secure a separate State for themselves. The years 1946 to 1948 witnessed communal riots in the country and communal feelings were so aroused that during the partition, the country was rocked by unmindful violence, thanks to the faulty and instigative policies adopted by the British government, to which the gullible Indians fell prey.

**Cause of Partition:** In addition to the aforementioned details, there were several other causes of partition of India. Some of these are as under:

(a) Growth of communal organisations like Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and Aligarh Movement inflamed the communal feelings of both the communities. This became the primary cause for partition of the country on religious lines.

(b) The Muslim League propagated the "two-nation theory" and preached that Muslims were a different nation, historically as well as religiously.

(c) Continuous support given by the British to Muslim communalism was another major cause of partition. Partition finally became a true expression of their policy of divide and rule. The prime interest of the British was to rule peacefully while both religious communities fought against each other. But this policy adversely affected the social and political life of the country and resulted in partition.

(d) The policy of appeasement adopted by the Congress towards the Muslim League, also resulted in partition. Though the aim of such policy by the Congress was to take the Muslims along during the process of nationalist movement, it was considered its weakness. Leaders of the Muslim League as well as the British government took full advantage of it.

(e) Communal riots which took place in the country during the nationalist movement also become an important factor responsible for partition. The Muslim League leaders exploited such incidents and tried to propagate that the interests of Indian Muslims would be secure only if a separate State was created for them. The Hindu fundamental organisations aggravated the situation by openly declaring that all the Muslims were foreign invaders and had no right to live in India. Such attitudes on part of both the communities became a major reason for partition of the country.

**Q. 7. Comment on the Policy of Science and Technology as provided in the Eighth Five Year Plan. What are the activities planned under Science and Technology during the Plan period? Briefly describe.**

**Ans. 7.** Science and Technology (S & T) today has influenced almost all walks of our life. It is no longer concerned with only technical aspects of life, but has entered almost all facets of our day to day life. Development of every sector of the economy needs strong back-up from S & T with the changing global scenario.

The eighth Plan document lays emphasis on intermeshing of the policies covering S & T, Industry, Agriculture and Finance. The

new economic policy has liberalised the procedures relating to technology acquisition and investment by foreign investors. Even for agricultural development, S & T inputs must be able to provide the ever increasing food requirements of our growing population. S & T agencies are required to develop capabilities in their specialised areas as well as to interact with various developmental sectors, industries and institutions. National Laboratories under the S & T agencies are required to make their facilities available to the scientists from the agricultural and industrial sectors. Some of the activities planned under S & T during the plan period are as under:

(a) S & T should result in accruing benefits to the society at large. Efficient management of land, water and energy resources through S & T are planned, for significant benefits to the people. Communication network through satellite and computers may result in better management of anti-poverty programmes. S & T is also required to develop models of economic development as well as innovative and cost-effective techniques for storage and processing of local resources.

(b) The plan also seeks to use innovative techniques and approaches in such a manner that they become an integral part of all the sectors such as agriculture, chemicals, coals, construction, education, employment, engineering, fertilizers, health, population control, rural development and communications.

(c) With a view to evolve new management structures with closer linkages between the developmental agencies, the implementation of the National Technology Mission and S & T projects has been envisaged.

(d) The Eighth Plan recognizes the need to step up Research and Development (R & D) in the country. It lays special emphasis on developing design and engineering capabilities, forward and backward linkages and engineering capabilities. Absorption of recently developed technology in industries, development of industrial infrastructure, sporting and strengthening pilot plant investigations and improvement of technology in the small-scale sector, are some of the other thrust areas of the Eighth Plan.

(e) Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) is another important feature of the Eighth Plan. It aims at the evaluation of existing technologies and for preparation of technology forecast, including manpower forecasts.

(f) Creativity and innovation are the other thrust areas in the development of S & T in India. Efforts are to be made to identify a few educational institutions where talented students and faculty members could be attracted for pursuing well-planned advanced courses so that these institutions could turn into centres of excellence for training and research.

(g) In addition, the other thrust areas of the Plan include basic research, innovative research, diffusion of technology and integration of S & T in socio-economic and rural sectors.

(h) The Plan also lays special emphasis on manpower development and employment. Shifting of population from agriculture to industry needs skill development and the plan specifically seeks to deal with this problem. While achieving this broad objective, awareness creation, restructuring of policies, creation of entrepre-

neurship, development cells in academic institutions, training in automated techniques and establishment of sophisticated industries are also being attempted.

(i) Development and dissemination of scientific temper and science communication are some of the additional thrust areas. Establishment of science museums, planetaria, exhibitions and coverage in mass media are some of the means to achieve this objective of dissemination.

(j) The plan lays special emphasis on developing international linkages in S & T. Such linkages are expected to be achieved by opening avenues for collaborative interaction, and mutuality at the international level. This would assist India in acquiring modern technology from the developed countries. The existing arrangements for cooperation with 40 nations of the world are sought to be expanded further.

(k) State governments are also expected to develop and apply S & T in various operations. Depending upon the State's natural resources, they are expected to encourage voluntary organisations, involve State S & T Councils in implementing technology missions, make operational remote sensing centres, increase funds for S & T and involve the State administration in extending S & T efforts to all the development sectors.

(l) Efforts are also being made to tone up management and administration of S & T at all the levels. The ultimate aim is to make sure that science in itself becomes a rewarding career and personnel are trained and encouraged to implement a wide variety of S & T programmes.

(m) Strengthening of organisational structure in most of the scientific agencies is yet another objective planned to be achieved. The plan also recognizes the need to bring about close interaction among S & T departments and the experts from the academic institutions, industries and socio-economic sectors.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE REFRESHER

By O.P. Khanna

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### INTERNATIONAL TRADE India Economic Summit

THE World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held a three-day India Economic Summit from October 28, 1996. The summit was attended by 125 foreign delegates and the first briefing on the Indian Economy was given by WEF managing director Claude Smadja. Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda delivered the inaugural address. The summit was addressed by, amongst other important persons, Finance Minister P Chidambaram, Commerce Minister B B Ramaiah, J & K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister C K Naidu and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh.

The WFI listed high cost of money, inadequate infrastructure, lack of banking and financial sector reforms and existence of obstacles in the way of industry's competitiveness as the major factors responsible for the deceleration of the Indian economy. Claude Smadja, in his inaugural address, said that India needs to go in for remedial actions on all those fronts.

He emphasized the need for reducing government borrowings, cutting budgetary deficits, deregulating the banking system, introducing transparency in the financial markets and amending obsolete laws. He also said that there was a need to delink management of banks from political interference and free them from political pressures. According to him, the government's stake in nationalised banks should be reduced to less than 51 per cent.

Some foreign delegates were of the opinion that the confidence level of foreign investors about India has fallen down. They were a little reassured when the Prime Minister said that the reform process would continue.

The Minister of State for Commerce, B B Ramaiah stressed that the government has been successful in keeping up the pace of economic reforms. The Minister for Planning and Programme YK Alagh was

### Recent Economic News

#### RBI Credit Policy

The Reserve Bank of India, on October 20, announced various measures as part of its credit policy for the second half of 1996-97. The highlights are:

- The cash Reserve Ratio has been reduced from 12% to 10%. It is expected that banks will cut lending rates by at least one percentage point after this cut. High lending rates, charged by banks so far, have been severely criticised by the RBI governor. The two per cent point cut in the CRR is expected to bring in Rs 8500 crore. The CRR will be cut progressively by half a percentage point with effect from October 26, 1996, November 9, 1996, January 4, 1997 and January 18, 1997. After the last cut, it will stand at 10 per cent. However, the one percentage cut in January is subject to the monetary and price situation at that time.
- Banks have been allowed to lend their foreign currency non-resident (banks) deposits in foreign currency-denominated loans to corporates. This is expected to bring in an inflow of \$ 2 billion into the system. So far, most banks have been holding these deposits outside the country because of the cost of hedging was rendering spreads unremunerative. Banks will be allowed to determine the "rate, tenor and the purpose of the loans".
- The maximum permissible interest rate offered on term deposits with maturity of 30 days and up to one year has been brought down from 11% to 10%.
- Banks have been asked to reduce PLR (Prime Lending Rates) and announce maximum spread over PLR.
- The target for export credit has been raised to 12 per cent from 10 per cent.
- Exporters have been given some relief on the high interest rates on post-shipment rupee export credit beyond 90 days. With effect from October 1996, the interest rate on overdue post shipment rupee credit beyond 90 days and up to six months is restricted to 15 per cent.
- To boost the secondary capital markets, banks have been allowed to trade in shares and debentures in the secondary market within the limit of five per cent of their previous year's incremental deposits. This limit is around Rs 2545 crore for this year.

It is expected that the overall effect of these measures would be an expansion in the lendable resources of banks without fuelling excessive monetary expansion and inflation. The move to slash down the CRR is said to be part of RBI's major policy initiative to arrest the slowdown in economic growth by improving liquidity, boosting industrial production and exports.

of the opinion that foreign investors should put their money in technological upgradation and innovation in India, taking advantage not only of the specialised manpower but also of the support provided by the government in this respect. The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah said that the development of power, tourism and agriculture will be on top of the agenda of the Jammu and Kashmir government. Meanwhile, Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of

Andhra Pradesh, said that new vistas were opening up for petroleum and petrochemical industries on the east coast. He also said that his government had received several proposals from South Korean MNCs to set up their units in the area.

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS

##### President's five-nation visit

AS part of his five-nation tour, President Shankar Dayal Sharma arrived

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

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in Oman on October 3, 1996. The visit resulted in the two countries signing an agreement on agriculture two MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding)—one on combating crime and the other on science and technology. The MoU on combating crime is the first that India has entered into with a Gulf country. The two countries have also set up a joint Technological Commission to institutionalise bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

The Sultan of Oman, during his meeting with President Sharma, put forward the concept of the Indian Ocean Rim countries as a common interest bloc and a greater role for Oman in the Gulf Coordination Council. Oman has been in favour of an Ocean Rim summit and India will support the move.

In the second leg of his tour, President S D Sharma went to Poland. He visited two concentration camps that preserve the ghastly memories of the death factory, gas chambers and crematoria run by the Nazi occupation forces. At the Auschwitz camp alone, about 1.5 million people, including 1.1 million Jews were killed in gas chambers and other inhuman crimes against humanity. He also went to the Birkenau concentration camps. The President also met the five thousand "Poles from India." They had come to India when Polish troops under the command of General Anders of erstwhile Soviet Union were withdrawn in 1942. These people had settled at a number of places in India including Jamnagar, Kolhapur and Panchgani. They come together every two years under the aegis of "world association of Poles from India." Thus, for many Poles, Gujarat is a second motherland.

Next, the President visited the young Republic of Slovakia. The Slovak President assured President Sharma that Slovakia would help India become a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

It was also assured that Slovakia would not buy from or sell to Pakistan

any kind of arms. Two agreements of cooperation in science and technology and on civil aviation were also signed. The possibilities and potential of increasing trade volume between the two countries was also discussed.

During the last leg of his tour the President visited the Czech republic. His three-day visit was the first ever by an Indian Head of State to the Czech republic. The two countries signed an agreement on investment protection with the new free market economy in Eastern Europe creating immense possibilities of two-way flow of investment. Agreements were also signed on cooperation in culture, education and scientific fields as also a protocol on foreign office consultations for regular exchange of views.

On his way back President S D Sharma made a day's stop-over at Rome.

## INDIA-IRAN

### Work on gas pipeline to be expedited

THE Indian Vice President K R Narayanan visited Iran from October 24, 1996. In discussions carried out there, the two countries identified hydrocarbons and the transport sector as areas of cooperation which they felt would expedite the

implementation of the proposed 2000 km gas pipeline project between the two countries.

Both the countries had signed a memorandum of understanding a few years ago for preparation of the feasibility report of the project. Iran accounts for 15 per cent of the world's proven gas reserves.

The Indian Vice President hailed the recent completion of the Iran-Turkmenistan rail project and said that more such ventures be taken up for enhancing cooperation between India, Iran and Central Asian Republics. Earlier, India, Iran and Turkmenistan had signed a trilateral MoU on international road and rail transport and transit in April 1995.

In his discussions with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Habibi, the Vice President also talked about regional groupings like SAARC, ASLAN and LCO. They were of the view that these would go a big way in promoting relations between the countries of the region.

## CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS

### Another panel set-up to examine ties

THE Inter-State council in its meeting on October 15, 1996, has decided to set up a panel to examine in-depth con-

### Indian Workforce most competitive in Asia

Reports in the *Economist* say that within Asia, India's workforce is the most attractive to foreign investors. India is the most cost-competitive but is close to the bottom in quality of skilled labour and ranks number two in availability of skilled labour.

Switzerland takes the lead in the quality of skilled labour and Australia leads in the availability. In the turnover of skilled workers, India ranks fourth and its rankings are preceded by Switzerland, Japan and Australia.

The journal also reported that when the graduates of both skilled and unskilled workers were averaged, only India and Philippines got good marks.

Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) wrote to 200 expatriate managers based in Asia to arrive at the results. Despite Asia's plentiful abundant workforce, local companies in the region have problems in finding, training and keeping employees, according to the survey.

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tentious issues, including the demand for the repeal of Article 356 of the Constitution relating to the imposition of President's rule and the role of Governors. This panel would submit its report within three months to the council on the contentious issues on which consensus could not be arrived at by the sub-committee which went into the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations.

The Inter-State Council meeting was convened after six years and was attended by a majority of the Chief Ministers. The Centre was represented by six Union ministers, including the Home Minister Indrajit Gupta.

Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda observed that the most important requirement for a healthy Centre-State relationship was frequent interaction and a system of decision-making involving adequate consultations. The Centre and the States are supreme in their own spheres but in the areas where their interests overlap, a system of continuous and sincere consultations and joint decision-making is necessary. Moreover, federalism in its true sense, recognises the role that is to be played by the local bodies as it was an integral part of the principle of cooperative federalism in its wider sense, he said.

### GUJARAT

#### Vaghela ministry sworn in

THE month-long spell of President's rule in Gujarat ended on October 23, 1996 when an eight-member Mahagujarat Janata Party Ministry, headed by Mr Shankersinh Vaghela, assumed office.

Earlier, the Governor had recommended to the Centre to revoke President's rule after the MJP paraded 56 MLAs, including 13 Independents, as its supporters and the 45-member legislature Congress Party in the 181-member House decided to support it from outside.

### Recent Economic News

#### Ninth Plan Rs 8,00,000 crore outlay

The Ninth Plan public sector outlay is to be Rs 8,00,000 crore at 1996-97 prices. This is about 35 per cent more than the Eighth Plan anticipated expenditure in real terms. This outlay of Rs 8,00,000 crore implies a major increase in total resource mobilisation by the government, both at the Centre and the State-level—including their public undertakings. This also means that the Centre and States would have to enhance tax receipts, contain non-plan revenue expenditures and improve non-tax revenues.

During the Eighth Plan, the anticipated plan expenditure in real terms accounted for about 90 per cent of the approved outlay. Since the projected outlay was lower, the public investment in the economy has been less than planned or required. It is important that this is avoided in the Ninth Plan.

The BJP has criticised the role of the Governor and demanded his resignation. The leaders, in fact, said that they had enough members but were not ready to parade them before the Governor. The party had not expected that they would be asked to prove majority outside the legislative Assembly.

On October 29, 1996, Vaghela won the vote of confidence in the Legislative Assembly with 101 votes in favour and none against. BJP abstained from voting. Meanwhile, BJP has filed petitions in the High Court, challenging the imposition of the President's rule and the action of the Governor inviting Mr Vaghela to form the Ministry.

### JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### Terrorism continues; Chief Minister asks separatists to talk or migrate to Pakistan

SEVEN family members of National Conference leader Ghulam Hassan Nadeef were killed on October 21, 1996, in two powerful bomb blasts in his house. The deceased included Rajaa, wife of the leader, his sons, Abdul Rashid (a police constable), Ghulam Mohammad and Mohammad Iqbal, and three others. The blast was the first major incident after Chief Minister Farooq

Abdullah served a 30-day ultimatum to militants to surrender with their arms and ammunition.

Earlier, Dr Farooq Abdullah said that the government is always ready for talks with the Hurriyat leaders but they would have to accept the reality that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. He has said that conversion of the Line of Actual Control into a permanent border could lead to the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Dr Abdullah added that if the Hurriyat leaders cannot reconcile with the reality of J & K being part of India, they were free to migrate to the country of their choice.

Referring to the continued militancy-related violence Dr Abdullah said that nobody should expect the proxy war, launched by Pakistan, to end in a day. He said that his government will meet the challenge politically as well as through counter-insurgency measures.

A committee, headed by Dr Karan Singh, is being set up to discuss the question of more autonomy to the State. This committee would first examine the autonomy that the State enjoyed after the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession. Later, the Delhi Agreement of 1952 and the Sheikh-Indira Accord of 1975 would also be examined.



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#### PUNJAB

##### SAD wins SGPC polls

THE Prakash Singh Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) made a clean sweep in the general house elections to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, that were held on October 14, 1996. SAD captured 155 seats out of the 170 contested.

The Akali Dal (Amritsar) and Akali Dal (Panthik) which were in the fray in association with the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Sant Samaj could only get a token presence of about seven seats.

The victory of the Badal-led SAD is seen as a manifestation of reinforcement of liberal democratic politics and the traditional Sikh ethos. Analysts see this as a trendsetting factor for the forthcoming elections to the State assembly. The results are seen as a verdict by the people indicating a burial of the radical ideology.

It is assumed that the Sikhs took this election as a prelude to the Assembly elections with the underlying idea that weakening Akali Dal (Badal) president Prakash Singh Badal would amount to strengthening Congress. Thus, in this context, the election is also the rejection of the Congress politics.

BJP leaders at the local level campaigned for the SAD (Badal) and projected Badal and Tohra as the guarantors of peace. The BJP support provided further strength to the liberal democratic assertion by the Badal faction.

#### UTTAR PRADESH

##### President's Rule reimposed

PRESIDENT'S rule was reimposed in Uttar Pradesh on October 17, 1996, on the recommendation of the Union Cabinet. The assembly has been kept under suspended animation.

The Cabinet felt that since none of the parties were able to come to an understanding for a coalition government in the

State, there was no option but to recommend the reimposition of President's rule. The decision of the Cabinet was said to be based on the advice of the Law Ministry that the reimposition of President's rule was provided for in the Constitution.

The non-BJP parties in the State wanted to prevent BJP from coming to power and forming the government. However, they themselves were not able to come to an understanding on government formation. The parties failed to agree on the leader who could lead the coalition in the State. The Congress-BSP alliance insisted on Ms Mayawati as Chief Minister and refused to agree on a compromise candidate. The United Front, being guided by Samajwadi Party Chief Mulayam Singh Yadav, refused to accept Mayawati as the Chief Minister. The BJP, with its 174 MLAs, had expected that it would be invited to form the government because it was the single largest party in the State Assembly.

The imposition of the President's rule was severely criticised by the BJP. BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee alleged that the Governor played a "partisan role". Even the Congress President, Mr Sitaram Kesari, expressed his unhappiness. He said, "I am not in favour of this—democracy should function without any obstacles."

#### TELECOM STRIKE

##### India suffers due to delayed Cabinet decision

THE Union Cabinet, on October 29, 1996, decided to pay productivity-linked bonus to group 'C' and 'D' employees in all Central government departments where the bonus is applicable. This helped in the calling off of the telecom strike and the resuming of work from October 30. The government also decided to grant ad hoc bonus to all "C" and "D" group employees in other departments not covered under the productivity linked bonus scheme. However, the Cabinet's decision

to waive the current ceiling of Rs 3500 for the payment of bonus to the government employees would be applicable only for the year 1995-96. For the future, the matter would be referred to the fifth Pay Commission.

The telecom strike had been a result of the government's decision to waive the ceiling on bonus for Railway employees. The employees of other departments, where the productivity-linked bonus was applicable, had termed the decision as "discriminatory" and they had gone on a strike from October 23.

During the strike, manual services were badly affected. Automatic exchanges, STD services, etc were maintained with the help of group "A" and "B" officers and staff available at some places. The postal strike limited counter and delivery services in various post offices across the country. These included delivery of government and institutional mail, clearance of selected letter boxes and delivery of speed post items.

#### SCANDALS

##### JMM case: Investigation continues

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has detected a chain of bank transactions by four Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leaders between August 1993 and February 1996. Apparently, the four JMM leaders—Shibhu Soren, Suraj Mandal, Shailender Mahato and Simon Marandi—were on a bank account opening and investment spree immediately after the no-confidence motion against the P.V. Narasimha Rao government on July 28, 1993. They had deposited huge amounts in these accounts. Mandal deposited Rs 1,62,90,000 on August 1, 1993 and again Rs 30 lakh in another account on September 9. He had also opened a Fixed Deposit (FD) Account jointly with three other JMM leaders and deposited



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### NATIONAL

another Rs 30 lakh in this account. Similar transactions were carried on by the others also.

Earlier on October 12, the CBI raided the residence, the farmhouse and the office of the former Union Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma in connection with the case. At the time of the raids, Captain Sharma was abroad. He returned on October 31 and was interrogated by the CBI. It is alleged that Captain Sharma was paid Rs 15 crore between April 1993 and February 1994 by various industrial houses, including Jindal Agro, Videocon, Essar, Reliance and Bindal Agro.

Besides Captain Sharma, former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Buta Singh and four others have also been chargesheeted by the CBI in the JMM case.

Others who are named in the FIR include Mr V.C. Shukla, Mr R.K. Dhawan, Mr Ajit Singh, former Haryana Chief Minister Mr Bhajan Lal and industrialist Mr Lalit Suri. However, their names are yet to be included in the chargesheet.

#### Fodder Scam

THE CBI, on October 17, 1996, chargesheeted six persons involved in the fodder scam, including the alleged Kingpin and former Regional Director of Animal Husbandry Department (AHD), Ranchi, Dr Shyam Bihari Sinha. Others chargesheeted were the Regional Director of AHD, Purnea, Mr Sitaram Singh, the Budget Officer-cum-Accountant of the department based at Patna, Mr Brajbhushan Prasad, an Assistant in the office of the Regional Director, Purnea, Nagendra Shah, a supplier, Chandrashekhar Prasad and a personal employee of Dr Sinha, Mohendra Prasad.

The accused have been charged with criminal conspiracy, forgery, cheating and corruption under sections 120-B, 409, 420, 467 and 468 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 13(2) read with 13(1) (c) and (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The chargesheet came soon after the

Patna High Court directed the CBI to speed up the pace of the probe. The Court had ordered the CBI to intensively probe the conspiracy aspect of the case

#### Now the Ayurveda Scam

ON October 15, 1996, the CBI conducted simultaneous searches at the offices and residences of various Ayurveda Department officials at 36 places in 10 districts of Uttar Pradesh in connection with the Rs 32 crore "ayurveda scam".

The investigations are related to the excess withdrawals from the State exchequer for purchase of ayurvedic medicines during 1993-94. The CBI took up the investigations into the fraud after the Governor forwarded the case to it in September, 1996

In certain cases, fake allotment letters were made showing purchase of Ayurvedic medicines while in reality these purchases were never made. In some other cases, the medicines were purchased at exorbitant rates by the department officials in connivance with the suppliers to cause loss to the State exchequer.

#### Urea Scam: NFL money traced

ON October 9, 1996, the CBI announced that it has traced \$ 7.86 million National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL) money in the Swiss Bank accounts of two officials of Turkish company M/s Karsan. This amount is part of the \$ 37.62 million remitted by NFL to M/s Karsan as payment for the import of 200,000 tonnes of urea.

The Swiss authorities have handed over documents pertaining to the accounts of arrested Karsan officials. The CBI also said that with details of transfers of money from Pictet and Indo-Swiss Bank in Switzerland made available, investigations would be expedited. Formal proceedings have already been going on to bring the 7.806 million dollars back to India.

The urea import scam is related to the agreement signed by the public sector NFL for import of 200,000 tonnes of urea

from M/s Karsan Limited. The entire amount of Rs 133 crore was paid in advance in the bank accounts of the company. Later, it was realised that the entire money had disappeared from the bank accounts. Also, the Karsan company failed to deliver the urea consignment by May 5, 1996, the last date of receiving the consignment under the agreement. However, the NFL decided to extend the date of urea receipt to October 4, 1996. Then in September, Karsan sent a consignment of 9006 tonnes at the Bhavnagar Port but the government refused to take delivery on the grounds that the supply was delayed and the urea was not up to the specifications of the contract. Apparently, the NFL has also decided to move the International Court of Justice in Paris for the recovery of the money.

#### Health Scam

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has unearthed a major scam in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, involving diversion of crores of rupees meant for leprosy-eradication programmes. The money for these programmes was given by the World Health Organisation (WHO). A case has been registered against former deputy director-general health services, Dr B.N. Mittal and a few other officials, for entering into a "criminal conspiracy" to misappropriate funds sanctioned by WHO to the ministry.

India is the recipient of a soft World Bank loan of Rs 300 crore for this programme. The country also accounts for nearly 64 per cent of the globally registered cases of leprosy, estimated at 2.1 million patients, and is among the largest recipient of WHO's funds for leprosy eradication.

Apparently, between 1991 and 1993 Dr Mittal, with the assistance of the ministry's statistical assistant M.K. Gupta and the head cashier of the New Delhi branch of the State Bank of Mysore

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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opened three "bogus" accounts in the State Bank of Mysore in New Delhi. Dr Mittal diverted more than Rs one crore to the bogus accounts opened by him. The money was transferred from the ministry's official account in the ANZ Grindlays Bank to the bogus accounts and subsequently misappropriated by the accused.

Although only three persons have been named initially, it is said that there is a "close involvement" of several other officials of the ministry.

#### Bangarappa Chargesheeted

THE CBI has chargesheeted former Karnataka Chief Minister S. Bangarappa, under the prevention of Corruption Act. Mr Bangarappa and five others have been accused of receiving bribes for granting permission for the PC Dental College. The others chargesheeted include former minister G. Puttuswamy Gowda and former Prisons Minister R.B. Choudhary.

In its seven-page charge sheet, the CBI has accused Mr Bangarappa of allegedly receiving Rs 10 lakh from Dr Pennathur for giving permission to set up the college, which had now been closed. Mr Puttuswamy Gowda, allegedly, received Rs 29 lakh and Mr Choudhary received Rs 5 lakh and a car.

#### Petrol pump allotment: Former Minister asked to pay Rs 50 lakh

IN an unprecedented action, the Supreme Court, on November 4, 1996, ordered the former Petroleum Minister, Capt Satish Sharma, to pay Rs 50 lakh to the government exchequer as exemplary damages for the "illegal and arbitrary" allotment of 15 petrol pumps from his discretionary quota.

The apex Court has also asked CBI to register a case against the former minister, for breach of public trust. Giving a *carte blanche* (authorisation to investigate any matter) to the CBI, the division bench of Supreme Court made it clear that "there

shall be no limit on the sphere of the CBI to investigate into the matter fully".

The Court said that while deciding the damages it had come to the conclusion that since Sharma was dealing with public property (petrol pumps) and he was a trustee of these properties, the "government by the people" had to be compensated.

The amount is to be paid by Capt Sharma within nine months and any arrears shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

### DEVELOPMENT LOANS

#### World Bank President's Visit

MR James D. Wolfensohn visited India on October 12, 1996 to take first-hand information on various World Bank-aided projects. During his meeting with the Finance Minister P. Chidambaram he reviewed projects in power, coal, transport, urban development, education and health sectors. The World Bank president also laid emphasis on the proper utilisation of the Bank money.

Mr Wolfensohn visited Bangalore and Orissa to get a first-hand account of the work in progress in rehabilitation of slums, urban infrastructure, education and watershed development. He also pledged to protect the flow of soft loans from the International Development Association (IDA) to India at current levels while expressing serious concern over the declining contributions from donor countries.

He also expressed concern over high level of corruption and expressed his displeasure over the fact that substantial amount of World Bank aid was ending up in officials' and politicians' coffers.

During his visit an agreement was signed on a new arrangement for monitoring the bank assisted projects with a view to speeding up the utilisation of the accumulated undisbursed loans, amounting to over \$ 9 billion.

The implementation of a number of

World Bank-aided projects has been tardy for various reasons, including inability of project authorities to find rupee resources. As a result, India has been paying the Bank a commitment charge of Rs 50 crore a year towards the unavailed loans.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Committee on Core Sector

PRIME Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has constituted a Cabinet Committee on infrastructure. Besides taking policy initiatives, the committee will monitor progress of major infrastructure projects. Apart from the Prime Minister, the committee will consist of Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, Railway Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas S.R. Balu, Minister for Surface Transport T.G. Venkatraman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Madhu Dandavate.

The setting up of the committee came soon after a decision was taken to privatise Indian ports and to set up a ports regulatory authority.

The need for the committee was felt because deficiencies in infrastructure and infrastructure services are a major roadblock to sustained growth in India. The main reason for this is lack of political stability. There are other inherent drawbacks also. In the power sector, most private projects are still to receive their financial closure. The main reason is the poor financial condition of the State electricity boards. In the transport sector also the biggest hurdle is the slow pace at which the government is encouraging investment in ports and port-related services. Even the Indian Railways makes minimum effort to involve private enterprise to spruce up its act. As far as the telecom sector is concerned, there is more type than action. There is a need to separate policy from operations and the tariff policy also needs to be firmed up.

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#### PLANNING

##### Social mobilisation vital to poverty eradication

A two-day seminar on 'Poverty eradication: The potential of community empowerment' was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Delhi in October. The consensus view at the seminar was that the success of poverty alleviation programmes hinges crucially on social mobilisation, which in turn will lead to greater efficiency in resource use and a legal and policy framework which is people-friendly.

It was felt that poverty eradication programmes needed an enabling environment which would allow community efforts to grow and succeed. Funding is not the primary constraint for poverty eradication. The failure of most programmes is brought about by the fact that there is a top-down approach without adequate participation.

It was also pointed out that despite overall improvement in the per capita income in the country, some States had made little headway. For example, per capita income has remained unchanged in Uttar Pradesh in the past five years and has gone down in Bihar.

Information has received inadequate attention and it is important to make available frontier technologies to the ultimate user. Regarding agriculture, the seminar pointed out that the impediment to the diffusion of appropriate agricultural technology in many cases was mainly due to problems of illiteracy and rural health.

#### POWER SECTOR

##### Freedom to States to clear power projects

ON October 16, 1996, the Central government decided to grant near-total freedom to States in deciding about power

projects. The government intends doing away with the mandatory Central Electricity Authority clearance for projects of "any size and cost".

The States would also have a final say in all matters relating to tariff by setting up independent regulatory authorities at the State-level. Besides this, powers related to environment and forest clearances, which were earlier exercised by the Centre, will also be delegated to the State authorities.

The government has also decided that it would set up an empowered committee which would take the responsibility of expediting clearances at the Central level.

##### Cogentrix gets counter-guarantees

ON October 10, 1996 the Central government approved the counter-guarantee proposal to the Rs 4000 crore

Mangalore power project, which is being promoted by the US company Cogentrix and China Light and Power International. The counter-guarantees will cover payments of capacity and energy charges for the proposed 1000 MW thermal project.

Counter-guarantees provide credit support in the event of the State electricity board's failure to make timely payments to the generating company.

The Union Cabinet also approved exemption to the Karnataka State Electricity Board (KSEB) for fulfilling the conditions for successful implementation of the operational and financial action plan with Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and the 3 per cent rate of return.

The Cogentrix project is the fourth one after the Dabhol (Enron), Jegurupadi (GVK) and Ib Valley (AES) projects to receive the Government of India counter-guarantees.

##### Blemishes that Mar 'India 1995—A Reference Annual'

Every year Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India brings out a 'Reference Annual'. A few months back it released 'India 1995'. The 951-page volume gives plethora of information about India. When viewed in the light of its price, a mere Rs 225, worth of the volume seems phenomenal. However, a critical appraisal besides highlighting some inconsistencies in the annual suggests poor ideation in the presentation of information. Ironically, some of these limitations have been occurring over the years and not much efforts seem to have been made to improve upon presentation or for updating the same. Some examples are as follows:

For instance at page 15, table 1.7 gives information about the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes based on 1981 census while all other tables in the chapter give information based on 1991. In the second chapter on 'National Symbols' at page 22 the RA while referring to National Anthem mentions that 'the song *Jana gana-mana...* was adopted by the Constituent Assembly... on January 24, 1950'. It coolly ignores recommendations providing 'equal status for the *Vande Matram*'.

Information about general elections is given but neither in chronological order nor in the order of States. While for some Assembly elections it gives precise date of conduct, for most of the other it just indicates years. In the chapter on 'Defence', the RA gives no historic references about Indian Army, Navy or Air Force. From amongst the three, only the 'responsibilities' of Navy have been mentioned. In the chapter on 'Education' it mentions about Indira Gandhi National Open University and other National Open Universities, but refers nothing about Andhra Open University, the pioneer in this context.

Space constraints prevent us from publishing scores of other blemishes. These certainly look strange in a prestigious government document. It is hoped that future editions will be compiled with more care and proper updation.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

#### PAKISTAN

##### Benazir dismissed

THE three-year-old Benazir Bhutto government in Pakistan was dismissed on November 5, 1996. President Farooq Ahmed Leghari levelled charges of corruption and extra-judicial killings in Karachi during her tenure as PM. Also, official involvement in Murtaza Bhutto's murder on September 20, 1996, the government's efforts to undermine the judiciary and Ms Bhutto's indirect hint that the President and the army were conspiring to kill the Bhutto family. Fresh polls will now be held on February 3, 1997.

Ms Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari and Punjab Governor Raja Saroop Khan were taken into custody by army officers. They were taken to an undisclosed place from the Governor's House in Lahore.

Malik Mairaj Khalid, a respected veteran of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has been named as the interim Prime Minister. He had retired from politics after clashing with Ms Bhutto's "authoritar-

ian" style. He was an ally of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and had served in his cabinet after the latter was elected President in 1971. He has also been Chief Minister of Punjab.

Benazir Bhutto's first government had also ended abruptly with her dismissal in 1990 amid charges of corruption and incompetence. She had, however, made a triumphant return to power in 1993 elections. Analysts have said that the Prime Minister's dismissal was expected. Even the IMF and the World Bank had hinted that it was not possible for any democratic government in Islamabad to resolve the economic crisis.

#### USA

##### President Clinton re-elected

WILLIAM Jefferson Clinton was re-elected on November 6, 1996 for a second term as the US President. He defeated his Republican Challenger Bob Dob by capturing 379 of the 538 electoral votes. President Clinton, thus, becomes the first Democrat since Franklin D. Roosevelt to

win successive elections.

However, the Republicans retained control of both the Senate as well as the House of Representatives, ensuring that Clinton's second term in office would be a tough and demanding one.

President Clinton also managed to gain the magic 50 per cent of the vote making him the first two-time plurality President since Woodrow Wilson.

#### JAPAN

##### Hashimoto re-elected PM; LDP fails to get majority in elections

IN the recent elections held in Japan, the Conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto won but failed to get the majority he had been asking for. On October 20, 1996, with eight seats undecided, the LDP had won 238 seats, making it impossible to win an overall majority of 251. The Prime Minister said that he was looking for coalition partners. New Japan Democratic Party (JDP) made a good debut but were reluctant to join the government. However, they did not completely rule out the coalition possibility.

The Socialist Party was almost completely wiped out and its leaders said that they would start from scratch again.

The turnout in the Japan elections was probably one of the lowest and voter turnout in the election stood at about 46.81 per cent only. This was 8.47 percentage points below the previous general elections, held in 1993.

On November 10, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was re-elected, taking the helm of a minority government that could be too fragile to tackle the big problems faced by Japan.

The elections had been called by Hashimoto amid signs of an economic pick up. At present the country is struggling to emerge from a five-year recession and series of scandals

#### Development Aid falls

A UNICEF report has said that the world's wealthy countries have made further cuts in development assistance, reducing aid to just 0.3 per cent of their combined Gross National Product (GNP). This makes the aid the lowest in the last 20 years.

Although the worldwide military budgets have dropped by a quarter since the end of the cold war, saving over 250 billion dollars a year, aid has risen by only one billion dollars a year in real terms. Official aid works out at 73 dollars a year for each person in the industrialised countries. The countries of northern Europe—Norway, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands give—still considerably greater proportion of their GNP in aid than the other industrialised nations.

In 1969, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC—initially nine and now 21 donor countries) introduced the idea of an Official Development Assistance (ODA). To qualify as ODA, aid has to come from governments, to be intended for development purposes (so excluding military aid) and be in the form of grants rather than commercial loans. A target of 0.7 per cent of GNP was fixed by the DAC and endorsed by the General Assembly. Starting from 0.5 per cent of GNP of the rich nations in the mid-1960s, the rate has been declining to 0.29 in 1973 and finally about 0.3 now.

The only bright spot in the whole scenario seems to be the increase in aid from non-governmental organisations. Although estimates vary, the total aid from NGOs now amounts to about six billion dollars a year or approximately ten per cent of the aid provided by governments.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

#### AFGHANISTAN

##### Turmoil Continues

ON October 21 1996 the Taliban Islamic militia accepted northern Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostum's proposal for a ceasefire on all Afghan fronts from mid-day. The proposal was accepted on the condition that a simultaneous exchange of prisoners of war would take place. The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) however advised all sides that the ceasefire should be unconditional. The OIC also declared that once the Afghan leaders put a ceasefire in place they would be invited by Saudi Arabia to meet in Jeddah to negotiate a formula for peace and a transitional government, leading to Loya Jurga (traditional Afghan assembly) or elections.

Dostum had earlier formed an alliance with former government military commander Ahmad Shah Masood. The latter had ceased control of capital Kabul to the Taliban on September 27 and had since fought back to the outskirts of the city. Dostum himself is a former communist general who defected to the Islamic resistance in 1992. He is considered a formidable military strategist. After the Muslim rebels threw out the communists in 1992, Dostum had held on to much of northern Afghanistan, while in Kabul and elsewhere, rival Islamic factions battled each other.

#### RUSSIA

##### Rybkin new security chief

ON October 19, 1996, former parliament speaker Ivan Rybkin was selected as the new national security chief by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. This came just two days after the dismissal of the controversial Alexander Lebed. Mr Rybkin was also named as the President's chief representative in negotiations with separatist rebels in Chechnya.

In his new role as secretary of the

Russian Security Council, Rybkin's role would be that of an advisor. He will not have direct authority over the security services. Mr Rybkin is a former Communist Party official and was serving as chairman of the President's political advisory council.

Mr Lebed, who was ousted as security chief, was said to be using the post as a platform for his own political ambitions. This had brought him in conflict with other high ranking officials in the Yeltsin administration. He is said to be already giving signs of campaigning for the post of President.

It is said that Mr Yeltsin's decision to name a replacement suggests that he is fed up with the quarrelling that has become so much a part of his administration. Even opposition leaders supported President Yeltsin's decision to sack Lebed.

#### INDONESIA

##### Megawati loses legal battle

THE pro-democracy leader in Indonesia, Megawati, lost a legal battle when a judge threw out a \$ 22 billion lawsuit against officials who engineered her removal as head of an opposition party.

Ms Megawati had sought 51 trillion rupiah (\$ 22.1 billion) in damages and reinstatement as chairwoman of the Indonesian Democratic Party. She said she had chosen the damage amount to mark Indonesia's 51st year of independence.

Earlier there had been a lot of public anger at her ouster by a rebel party meeting organised by the military-fuelled anti-government riots on July 27, 1996.

Megawati, daughter of the late President Sukarno, was apparently targeted because her calls for greater democracy caught the attention of millions of Indo-

#### Slowdown in growth of Asian Tigers

A World Bank report released in the third week of October has said that there has been a slowdown in growth and exports in the so-called Asian tigers: South Korea, Taiwan, Hongkong and Singapore. Besides these countries, a slowdown has also come about in the developing nations of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. China's economic growth also dipped to 7 per cent in the late summer, sharply lower than the official 9.8 per cent that was claimed by Beijing.

##### The reasons behind these trends are:

(a) Falling demand for consumer electronics, semiconductors and computer related equipments.

(b) Tight credit—China, Malaysia and Thailand are fighting high inflation or current account deficits with higher interest rates that slow growth.

(c) Restructuring, especially in South Korea and Taiwan which are in the midst of painful efforts to open their domestic markets and shift away from low-wage, labour-intensive jobs.

(d) Politics. There have been various disturbing factors like street riots and protective policies in Indonesia, recent collapse of the Thai government and Hong Kong's upcoming return to Chinese rule.

(e) China is pulling investment away from smaller nations by forcing foreign companies interested in the Chinese market to build plants there and guarantee a percentage of production for export.

Interestingly, despite the slowdown, the region's economic growth—excluding stagnant Japan—is envied by the world. The lowest expected growth rate in the area is 5.5 per cent.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### INTERNATIONAL

nesians after 30 years of authoritarian rule under President Suharto. The government is afraid of her growing popularity which could be a threat to Mr Suharto who had overthrown her father in 1966.

### THAILAND

#### Government body on human rights rejected

**E**FFORTS to form a human rights commission in Thailand ran into trouble. A Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) said that the bill to set up the commission is unacceptable. The NGOs say that it is unacceptable because the new commission wouldn't be independent. The commission would be chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Attorney General as secretary. It is felt that to be credible such bodies must be autonomous.

Thailand has seen a lot of brutal suppression earlier. A number of pro-democracy activists were killed by security forces in October 1976 at Thammasat University, and again in May 1992 in Central Bangkok. Even twenty years after the Thammasat massacre, there has been no inquiry. In recent times, as Thailand has been moving towards economic development, people's rights to land, resources and a clean environment have been in jeopardy. Therefore, it is said that the commission is an urgent need.

In 1993, Thailand had declared at an international conference in Vienna that it would give priority to creating or strengthening national institutions for the protection of human rights. Since then, there have been various hindrances. Frequent changes in government, corruption scandals, opposition from various sources are a few of the problems that have been acting as barriers to the formation of the commission. India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines already have human rights commissions. Thailand is among the countries that has been trying to form one.

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Failure of talks on Hebron

**I**NSPITE of a US mediation in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the talks on an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron failed to produce any results. Israel blamed Arafat for the breakdown in the negotiations, after he left for his week-long trip to Norway and Europe. The negotiations had been launched by US President Bill Clinton after violence in September claimed 79 lives.

Before departing, Arafat said that he hoped an accord could be worked out which would resolve the 34 points of difference between the two sides. The issues concerned the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Hebron and permission to Palestinian police to take over patrolling in the city.

Israel accused Arafat of wanting to delay an agreement until after the US Presidential elections on November 5, in the belief that Clinton would take a harder line with Israel after being re-elected.

### UN

#### Japan uses money power to out-wit India

**T**HE Deve Gowda government has been severely criticised for the failure to get India elected to the UN Security Council and for making the country suffer a 'humiliating defeat' in the hands of Japan.

India and Japan had been vying for the UN Security Council seat and were locked in a fierce contest. India had been lobbying assiduously among members of the non-aligned group emphasising the fact that the presence of a NAM member on the Security Council would enable it to project NAM concerns in the world forum. However, India suffered a defeat by a wide margin of 142 to 40. This was shocking for India, which had expected support from most of the 114 non-aligned nations.

Japan, apparently gained support because of its status as the largest aid-giver to the Third World. Awareness of the country's generosity, probably, helped the country gain the UN Security Council seat. All the nations that had pledged support to India found it in their interest to prefer economics over ethics. Japan, therefore, earned its eighth term on the Security Council as a non-permanent member—more than any other country.

Japan's use of economic and money muscle to win the seat has been criticised. Analysts have said that this could set a dangerous trend of rich nations buying votes of smaller nations.

The Security Council now comprises of : **Permanent members**—USA, Russia, Britain, France, China **Non-Permanent members**—Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, South Korea and Sweden.

### CONFERENCE

#### Food Conference

**T**HE World Food Summit was held from November 13, 1996, in Rome, amidst doubts about whether anything significant can be done to help the 180 million people who suffer from hunger. The last World Food Conference was held in 1974 and had set a goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition within a decade. The goal, however, still remains a distant dream.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which called for the summit, hoped that the governments will again commit themselves to achieving "food for all". FAO kept the focus of the summit more narrowly on issues such as improving access to food for the poor, ensuring increased food production and dealing with food needs in civil strife. In its pre-summit briefings, FAO had said that the world population will grow by 2 billion to a total of 8.7 billion by the year 2030, putting intense pressure on the earth's natural resources.

# Current General Knowledge

## AWARDS

### Nobel prizes, 1996

**For literature:** Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska.

**For medicine:** Peter Doherty of Australia and Dr Rolf Zinkernagel of Switzerland, for their work on the body's immune system.

**For physics:** David Lee, Robert Richardson and Douglas Osheroff of the Cornell University in USA, for their work in low temperature physics.

**For chemistry:** Harold Kroto of University of Sussex in Britain, and Robert Curl and Richard Smalley of Rice University, USA, for their discovery of new form of molecular carbon.

**For economics:** James Mirrlees of Cambridge University in Britain and William Vickrey, a Canadian teaching in the Columbia University in USA, for their work analysing incomplete information that characterise markets.

**For peace:** East Timor's Jose Ramos Horta, a former journalist, and Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, who have been campaigning for their region's independence from Indonesia.

### World Food Prize, 1996

**T**HE 1996 World Food Prize was jointly awarded to Dr Henry M. Beachell and Dr Gurdev Singh Khush, for their work in rice research which "revolutionised Asian agriculture", improving the diets of millions of people. Dr Khush heads the IRRI's breeding programme and introduced the IR-36, which is now one of the most widely grown food crop varieties in the world.

### World Food Day Award

**F**ATHER of the green revolution, Dr M.S. Swaminathan, has been conferred the "World Food Day" Award of the Food

and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) for his achievement in agricultural research.

### Booker Prize, 1996

**G**RAHAM Swift has won the 1996 Booker Prize for his comic novel 'Last Orders'. The award consists of 20,000 Pounds Sterling.

### Commonwealth Writers' Award

**T**HE Indian born Canadian writer, Rohinton Mistry, was awarded the 1996 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for his novel, 'A Fine Balance'. The novel is set in the Indian sub-continent and is about dramatic upheavals in a country torn apart by social and political reforms in the 1970s.

### Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration, 1995

**G**ANDHI Institute of Public Affairs, Gurgaon, is the winner of the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration, 1995. The award consists of Rs 1.5 lakh in cash and a citation.

### Panda Award (Green Oscar)

**'LIVING in the Edge'**, Doordarshan's environmental series, was presented the Panda award, better known as the Green Oscar. The highest award for films on environment was presented to the Alva brothers, Nikhil and Niret, who produced and presented the film.

### Sportstar Award, 1996

**S**PORTSTAR'S best sportsman of the year award has been presented to grandmaster Vishwanath Anand.

## BOOKS

### Last Orders

**T**HIS comic novel is written by UK novelist Graham Swift, the winner of this

year's Booker Prize. It tells the story of four friends who meet to carry out the dying wish of their friend Jack that his ashes be scattered into the sea at Margate, Kent. Swift's novels have been translated into 20 languages.

## CONFERENCE

### First National Meet of Blind Women

**T**HE National Conference of Blind Women was the first of its kind in the entire SAARC region and was organised by the All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB) in New Delhi.

It was attended by over 200 delegates from 15 States, besides some delegates from abroad. The theme of the conference was "blind women in India—equality rights and participation".

## CYBERSPACE

### Virtual Classroom

**A** pioneering educational program that will allow students from around the world to share and compete in a cyberspace classroom has been launched by AT&T Jensei, the first commercial Internet access provider in Japan. The innovative program is designed to encourage creativity on the Internet and foster international cooperation. It simulates the real-world international environment in which business and world leaders work so that students will have to make an effort to communicate with one another despite cultural differences.

AT&T Jensei is setting up Virtual Classrooms that will be attended by students from 50 schools in Japan and 100 schools outside Japan. Each Virtual Classroom will consist of a web site, a web-based discussion forum and a real time chat area. "The program is a state-of-the-art application of AT&T's longstanding tradition of sup-



porting education", says Darryl E. Green, President and CEO of AT&T Jents. "The experience will provide students with technical and cooperative skills that will help them throughout their lives."

Students are divided into 50 groups of three, each from a different country. Under the theme "The World Is Our Classroom", each group will create a collaborative project based on a particular skill, such as research, artwork or writing, and they will design a web site that displays the results of their teamwork. The greatest benefit to participating students is the opportunity to recognize and meet the challenges of international collaboration.

## NUCLEAR POWER

### Kalpakkam plant goes critical

**K**AMINI, the Kalpakkam mini-30 KW reactor, went critical at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) on October 29, 1996.

The reactor, developed indigenously, is the first in Asia to use 'Uranium 233' as fuel. The attainment of criticality demonstrates India's capability in using the fuel and it becomes a forerunner for all reactors that will be developed in future. Kamini is at present the only operating research reactor utilising uranium 233, derived from thorium, available in plenty in beach sands of Kerala.

Kamini would be primarily used for neutron radiography of irradiated fuel of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR). With this objective, the reactor had been placed beneath a hot cell of the radio metallurgy laboratory of IGCAR where the irradiated fuel of FBTR was examined. Three beam tubes had also been provided for extracting neutron beams.

Kamini is a collaborative programme of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai and IGCAR. Basic design, fuel, reflectors, nuclear instrumentation and control systems have been provided by BARC, while the reactor tank and other vessels, biological shield, water systems, special ventilation system, power supply systems, infrastructure and utilities are provided by

IGCAR.

## PERSONS

### Belo, Carlos Filipe Ximenes

**R**OMAN Catholic Bishop Belo, 48, shares this year's Nobel peace prize. He has been instrumental in prompting the Indonesian government to investigate the massacre of 270 peaceful protestors in 1991. In 1989, he asked the UN for a referendum and has criticised Indonesia's policy of sending non-Timorese to the island.

### Curl, Robert E.

**O**NE of the three scientists who have been honoured with the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He works at the Rice University in Houston, USA.

### Doherty, Peter

**A**USTRALIA'S Peter Doherty is one of the two winners of this year's Nobel Prize for Medicine. A veterinary surgeon, he was given the award for his work on the body's immune system.

### Kroto, Harold W.

**H**AROLD Kroto of Britain's University of Sussex is one of the scientists who shares this year's Nobel Prize for Chemistry. The three scientists discovered carbon molecules that had the shape of a soccer ball, which they named "buckminsterfullerenes".

### Lee, David M.

**O**NE of the three scientists who have won this year's Nobel prize for physics, Lee teaches at the Cornell University in USA.

### Mirrlees, James A.

**B**ORN in 1926, James Mirrlees of Britain's Cambridge University, who shares this year's Nobel prize for economics, has made major contributions in solving problems associated with optimal income taxes. He has taught in Africa, Pakistan and USA and devised an income tax system that was intended to provide the maximum amount of revenue. His own theory led to the conclusion that progressive tax is not the best.

### Osheroff, Douglas C.

**P**ROFESSOR at the Stanford University in California, Osheroff shares this year's Nobel prize for physics. The citation notes that it was "Osheroff's vigilant eye" that noticed the change of Helium-3 into a superfluid at low temperatures.

### Richardson, Robert C.

**O**NE of the scientists who have won this year's Nobel prize for physics Richardson teaches at the Cornell University in USA.

### Singh, Gian

**G**IAN Singh, winner of the Victoria Cross in Burma in March, 1945 died in Jalandhar on October 6, 1996 at the age of 76. He was drafted in the Sikh Regiment after independence and fought during the Chinese aggression in 1962 and later in operations in Kashmir. His bravery stands out in the extraordinary annals of the Victoria Cross.

### Smalley, Richard E.

**O**NE of the three scientists who share this year's Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He works at the Rice University in Houston, USA.

### Swift, Graham

**W**INNER of this year's Booker prize Graham Swift, 47, has written many novels which have been translated into 2 languages. He was the hot favourite for the prize, which he won for his book, *Literature Orders*.

### Szyborska, Wislawa

**P**OLISH poet Wislawa Szyborska is the winner of this year's Nobel Prize for literature. She was cited for writing poetry with "ironic precision that allow the historical and biological context to come to light in fragments of human reality". The Swedish academy quoted one of her poems, *Nothing Twice* and said that she had disclaimed her earlier work conforming to social realism at a time when communist censorship held sway over Poland.

#### **Vickery, William**

**C**ANADIAN born William Vickery, one of the two recipients of this year's Nobel Prize for economics, concentrated on studying different types of auctions and how they can be best designed to generate economic efficiency. His research has been extended to practical applications, including the auction of US treasury bonds. He also urged railways and services to prevent congestion by charging peak rates at the busiest times of the day, which has become a common practice today.

Vickery, who was born in 1914, died three days after winning the Nobel prize.

#### **Zinkernagel, Rolf**

**A** Swiss specialist in tropical diseases, Dr Rolf Zinkernagel shares the Nobel Prize for medicine for his work on the body's immune system.

### **PROJECTS**

#### **Rail projects for N-E**

**R**AILWAY Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has announced two major projects worth Rs 1,550 crore for the North East. These projects will be outside the Railway budget and fully funded by the central exchequer.

The two projects are—Kumarghat-Agartala link costing Rs 1,000 crore and the Bhogibhil Bridge requiring an investment of Rs 550 crore. The work on the projects will start next year.

The projects are a part of the economic development package of Rs 6,100 crore announced by Prime Minister Deve Gowda.

### **RESEARCH**

#### **Multiple languages dubbing**

**D**UBBING in multiple languages will be easier now with the launch of a computerised dubbing station at Pune by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

The station, named "Butterfly Dubbing Station", was inaugurated on October 22, 1996. The dubbing facilities developed by the C-DAC will reduce dubbing time and costs almost half of what would otherwise be required in the conventional method which is also quite cumbersome.

In the conventional method, the dubbing artiste has to keep a constant watch on the picture to attain a synchronisation between the audio and the video. In the new station, the audio is stored in computer instead of audio tape which allows easy repositioning.

Besides, the station also provides for the selection of the best audio take. Multiple audio takes for a single line of dialogue can be recorded and stored simultaneously in the computer. The best can be selected while discarding the rest.

#### **Brain surgery via nose**

**S**URGEONS have perfected a bloodless, minimally-invasive technique of operating on pituitary tumours by accessing the brain through the nose.

The "trans-sphenoidal" technique, which could deliver thousands of pituitary tumour patients from the trauma of conventional brain surgery, depends on support from the Eye, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeon and the modern neuroendoscope.

Reaching the pituitary, which also happens to be the organ most richly supplied with blood in the body, is very difficult. For the patient, conventional surgery could mean not only such risks as partial paralysis from loss of brain tissue but also coping with prolonged and expensive recovery. The nasal approach has greatly simplified surgical treatment of pituitary tumours.

### **SPACE**

#### **Oxygen found on Jupiter moon**

**A**STRONOMERS, using the Hubble space telescope, have discovered that Jupiter's largest moon, Ganymede, has a thin oxygen atmosphere and possibly auroras at its poles, similar to the 'northern lights' on earth. Despite the presence of a small amount of oxygen, there was no sign that Ganymede supported life. Ultraviolet observations of the moon led to the discovery of oxygen at concentrations similar to those found high above the earth about where the space shuttles orbit.

#### **Canada to be ISRO's first customer for launches**

**C**ANADA is to be ISRO's first customer for launching of remote sensing and communication satellites. The two countries signed an MoU to expand co-operation in several space-related ventures on October 15, 1996.

Canadian Space Agency (CSA) president W.M. Mac Evans said that India had a good satellite launch vehicle programme and that it would consider launching its small satellites using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

India has already demonstrated its capability for launching 800 kg category satellites through two successful developmental flights of PSLV in the last two years. The third PSLV developmental model will be launched in 1997.

The launch of the Geostationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV) in 1998 will give ISRO the capability to launch large satellites of about 2,000 kg.

#### **Planet with roller-coaster-like orbit discovered**

**A** new planet that breaks all the rules has been found in orbit of a twinstar about 70 light-year from earth, in a constellation commonly known as the Northern Cross.

The new planet has a roller-coaster-like orbit that swoops down close to its central star and then swings far out into frigid fringes, following a strange eggshaped orbit that is unlike any other known planet. It is unlikely that life exists on the new planet, because it is probably more like the gaseous planets, such as Jupiter or Saturn, than the rocky planets such as earth or Mars.

During one part of its 804-day-long year is the planet's summer, then the planet swings far out, reaching a point 253 million km from the star. This is its winter and it lasts more than 500 days.

Most planets in the solar system have an almost circular orbit, like the earth, and most theories about stars is based on them settling into a circular orbit. The eccentric orbit of the new planet adds a new dimension that astronomers will have to consider in theories about planetary formation.

# SPORTS

## CHESS

### Chess Olympiad

**RUSSIA** (38 points) and **Georgia** (30 points) won the men's and women's championships respectively at the 32nd Chess Olympiad played at Yerevan on October 2, 1996. India notched up 27.5 points in the men's section and 23 points in the women's section.

## CRICKET

### Tital Cup

**INDIA** showed an inspired performance to beat South Africa by 35 runs and lift the Tital Cup. The final was played at Mumbai.

The Titan Cup triangular series was played between India, Australia and South Africa.

South Africa had remained unbeaten in all their league matches. India won two out of their three matches with Australia, while one was washed out due to rains. Both the matches were won by India in a nail-biting finish. Infact, the Mohali match become a virtual semi-final.

South Africa were clear favourite. But, once again they failed in their crucial match. Earlier, South Africa had lost in the semi-final of the Wills World Cup '96 inspite and doing very well in league matches.

### Cricketer of the Year

**BRIAN** Lara of West Indies has been awarded the inaugural Ceat International Cricketer of the Year Award for 1995-96. The award is the first of its kind and takes a global perspective in a 12-month period from May 1 to April 30 by a well-defined rating system.

### India-Australia one-off Test

**INDIA** celebrated a Test victory against Australia after 15 years in a match played at New Delhi on October 13, 1996. India won by seven wickets. The newly insti-

tuted Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the series was presented to Sachin Tendulkar. The last time that India won a Test against Australia was in 1981 at Melbourne.

### Fastest century

**PAKISTAN'S** Shahid Afridi scored the fastest one-day international century off 37 balls against Sri Lanka in a match played at Nairobi.

### Pakistan-Zimbabwe Test Series

**THE** first Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe, held at Sheikhpura, ended in a draw. Skipper Wasim Akram hit 257 with 12 sixes and broke the 63-year record set by Wally Hammond of England who hit 10 sixes in his 336 not out against New Zealand in 1932-33.

The second Test was won by Pakistan to win the series 1-0.

## FOOTBALL

### Subroto Mukherjee Cup

**MADHYAMGRAM** High School of West Bengal won the Subroto Mukherjee Cup for the seventh time, defeating Israel's Ort Natanya 3-2 in 'sudden death' at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.

## GOLF

### Dunhill Cup

**STEVE** Stricker helped USA win the Dunhill Cup by beating New Zealand 2-1 at St Andrews, Scotland. He was the only player to win all five matches in the competition.

## HOCKEY

### MCC-Murugappa Trophy

**INDIAN** Airlines beat Air India 2-0 in the 74th All India MCC-Murugappa hockey tournament at Chennai.

### Kuber Gold Cup

**BORDER** Security Force defeated Punjab Police 3-2 in the Kuber Hockey Gold Cup final in Meerut. Punjab and Sind Bank beat Central Reserve Police Force 6-1 to finish third.

## POLO

### Tanishq Title

**INDIA 'A'** defeated England 4-3 to claim the Tanishq all-star international arena polo title in New Delhi.

## SNOOKER

### NSCI Open Invitation Snooker Tournament

**YASIN** Merchant won the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) Invitation Open Snooker Tournament, beating Sonic Multani in six straight frames in the best of 11 final played at Mumbai.

## TABLE TENNIS

### World Cup Title

**LIU** Guoliang of China won the World Cup title by beating Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner.

## TENNIS

### Shriram Open Tennis Championship

**SANDEEP** Kirtane and Jhanavi Parekh won the men's and women's title, respectively, in the Shriram Open Tennis Championship in New Delhi. The under-16 boys and girls titles were won by Ajay Ramaswamy and Sheetal Gautam respectively.

## FEDERATION CUP

**MONICA** Seles of the US beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to end Spain's three-year reign in the Federation Cup Women's tennis championship. The US team swept Spain 5-0 for America's 15th victory in the event, their first since 1990.

# Question Box

**Q.** I would like to become a film director but I do not know how I can realise my ambition. Which course would be useful to me?

—G. Rakesh Kumar, Hyderabad (A.P.)

**A.** You can join a course at the Film and Television Training Institute of India, Pune. Alternately, you can join a theatre institute and learn the art of direction.

**Q.** I like to paint and would like to do a course in fine arts. Would it be useful in getting a job?

—Abhiram Das, Jajpur (Orissa)

**A.** There is a great demand for good artists and visualisers and many new areas have opened up. Ideally, for a good job, you should do a course in applied arts and also get familiarity with computer techniques. If you are good, getting a job would not be difficult.

**Q.** My blind addiction for civil services led me to overlook other avenues and after four attempts I am at a loss what to do. At present I am teaching in a school. Please guide me what I should do.

—M.K. Sahoo, Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

**A.** You are not alone in your predicament. Many young people waste their time in unsuccessful attempts in the civil services. The lesson to be learnt from your example is that one should keep one's options open even while preparing for competitive exams. Anyway, since you have already lost valuable years, it would not be advisable to start pursuing a new career. It would be wise to continue with your teaching job and look for better paying options. To augment your income, you can start taking tuitions. You can also do a diploma by correspondence in a subject of your choice and gradually shift to a new profession in case you do not like teaching.

**Q.** Is there any financial institution to provide loans to students for higher study abroad? Is any government scheme available?

—Kumud Ranjan, Sitamarhi (Bihar)

**A.** Loans for higher studies are available from certain banks. Policies are also available from the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) which come in useful when money for higher education is required. If no policies were taken out by your parents, they would have to take a loan against security from a bank.

**Q.** Certain medicines are to be applied on the body and are not swallowed. Will they not have an effect when swallowed?

—Rupesh Kumar, Darjeeling

**A.** Certain medicines have a local action, that is, they effect the part of the body directly. They may also contain certain additives which are harmful when taken internally. Medicines should thus be administered under medical supervision or the instructions on the package, in the case of ointments etc, should be followed.

**Q.** If anyone invents a new theory, what should be the appropriate forum to present it? What is the process for a person to be nominated for the Nobel Prize?

—Siddheshwar Mishra, Cuttack (Orissa)

**A.** Any theory must be scientifically validated. Depending on its nature, it could be patented. You can apply to Department of Science and Technology for help. For the Nobel Prize, a person would have to be nominated for consideration by the awarding committee. Confidential nominations from all over the world are usually invited before they are finalised.

**Q.** I would like to do Masters in Social Welfare (MSW). Which institutes

offer this course?

—Jaya Mukherjee, Bokaro

**Q.** Can I do MSW by correspondence?

—Sudeshna Sarkar, Murshidabad (W.B)

**A.** Many universities and private institutes offer the MSW course, both as a regular course as well as through correspondence. Look out in newspapers for admission notices of institutes. Some of these are featured in our Admission Alert column.

**Q.** I have problem in expressing myself. When asked a question, I want to speak but my voice simply does not come out. I also start shivering. How can I remove this shortcoming?

—Ram Lachhan, Ahmedgarh (Punjab)

**A.** The only way to remove this defect is through practice. Speak to others as you would speak to your friends. It is a gradual process and it will take a long time to overcome this defect. You can also refer to books on speaking which would be helpful. In case you still cannot get over it, seek professional help from a teacher or a psychologist.

**Q.** I am preparing for MBA. Please tell me the names of the institutes which hold their tests from May 1997 onwards.

—Shikha Agarwal, Kari (U.P.)

**A.** Keep track of our Admission Alert column and also newspapers from March/April 1997 onwards. Also refer to issues of the COMPETITION MASTER for last year which will give you an idea about the institutes which hold their tests from May onwards.

**Q.** Which is better: MFC or MBA?

—Rajesh Mishra, Yamunanagar (Haryana)

**Q.** Is MBA better than ICWA?

—Vishal Sharma, Bhopal (M.P.)

A. It depends on what a person wants to do. What is good for one may or may not be as good for the other.

**Q. Who painted 'The Last Supper'?**

—Kulvinder Singh Sabherwal, New Delhi

A. Leonardo Da Vinci. The painting depicts the moment when Jesus reveals to his disciples that one of them will betray him.

**Q. I have joined a graduate computer course from a private institute. Will I be able to get a good job after it?**

—Jaydeep Ghose, Hooghly (West Bengal)

A. Since you have already joined the course, we suggest you work hard and become a good professional, which will help you get a job. However, your institute should help you find an answer and you can also see the jobs that your seniors have been able to get.

**Q. Where can I get information on rural development and rural poverty alleviation schemes?**

—Saibal Banerjee, Alwar (Rajasthan)

A. Please refer to *Current Affairs and Backgrounders* published by Khanna Brothers, which carries a chapter on rural development and poverty alleviation schemes.

**Q. I study in class 10. Which subjects should I take up which will help me get through IAS?**

—Priyanka Halder, Durgapur (West Bengal)

A. We are often asked this question and the answer is that you should choose what you are interested in. If you like a subject, you will put in more efforts to know about it. Please do not take subjects on the advice of other people, something you don't like, which will only create problems for you later on.

**Q. I appeared in many examinations but failed as my English is not good. How can I know about common errors and increase my word power?**

—H.P. Nagaraj, Adoni (A.P.)

A. Follow a good book on grammar. As for vocabulary, you must develop the habit of extra reading and look up the words in a dictionary or thesaurus. The *Competition Master* regularly publishes tests which you should do.

**Q. What is pop music?**

—Ranjeet Jha, Benipatti (Bihar)

A. 'Pop' is used for 'popular music'. Today, it has come to mean English songs.

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# Descriptive Questions

## Smaller States

**Q.** 'Small is beautiful'. In the light of the saying, substantiate your views on the formation of smaller States in the Indian Union. Your views should be based on history, present socio-economic conditions and future prospects.

**Ans.** Though the demand for the creation of smaller States on the basis of socio-economic conditions has been simmering for quite sometime, the announcement regarding the formation of Uttarakhand State has opened the proverbial Pandora's box. There is every likelihood that the Union government may have to appoint a commission on the lines of the earlier States' Reorganisation Commission to go into the entire gamut of justification and economic viability of smaller States. There is no denying the fact that there are always factors that justify the creation of small States so that they can be administered, developed and involved in the overall progress and prosperity of the people concerned and the country at large.

If there is any lesson to be learnt from Indian history, it is that both the Centre and the States have to be strong in their respective areas of operation and performance. As such, there is nothing wrong in creating more States if the legitimate aspirations and administrative needs so require. If in the earlier reorganisation of State, language was the determining factor, now the reasons for smaller States may be different but certainly more genuine and urgent. A commission comprising experts in various fields can go into the issue of having smaller States and thus recommend bifurcation or division of big States for socio-economic development and speedy redressal of peoples'

grievances.

Formation of new States is not the panacea for ills such as economic imbalances, backwardness, poverty and illiteracy. Despite the fact that the State of Assam has been divided into a number of smaller States, there is not much progress to boast of in the entire north-east region. Insurgency, ethnic violence and border disputes still stare us in the face. The purpose for which so many States were carved out remains unfulfilled with all the attendant consequences that are highly harmful for the security and integrity of the region. Unless corrective measures are taken and the problems afflicting the lives of the people are addressed, smaller States can not better the lot of the people. Politicians must bear in mind that the creation of more States is for the progress and prosperity of the area not to gratify their greed for power.

If the demand for the formation of more States gathers momentum and the proposed commission recommends creating more States, it should be made clear that national assets like rivers, belong to the country and no boundary disputes will be allowed. No State should be carved out simply on the demand of parochial or chauvinistic forces, that are out to destroy the composite cultural fabric of the polity. Creation of more States should not fuel regional sentiments over national considerations. We have already had plenty of problems born out of the son-of-the-soil theory and the conflict between locals versus outsiders and natives versus migrants.

## Improving working conditions for career women

**Q.** Suggest three effective measures

to improve working condition for career or working women in India.

**Ans.** Empowerment of women who constitute nearly fifty per cent of our population, has been on the agenda of every political party. Some of the measures taken so far in this direction have been the grant the voting rights to women and reservation of seats for them in rural as well as in urban elected bodies. Their entry into the work-force has made a distinct impact on their status and economic independence. But they face problems and even harassment to keep both the home and work-place in good shape and humour.

Striking a balance between her home and office, the career woman walks a knife's edge, quite often earning nothing more than complaints on the home front and discrimination in the office, besides indecent remarks and gestures on the roads, buses and other public places. It is at home that charity has to begin first. Members of the family, whether young or old, have to be taught to bear with a working house-wife, who is always under mental stress and physical pressure. Unlike an ordinary housewife, the career woman has to manage and acquit herself to the satisfaction of her superiors in office and dependants at home. Since no major shift in attitudes and working conditions can be effected in the work-place, it is the members of the family who can be made to share her burden and show due consideration to her.

Most women agree that men have come to accept their increasing presence among them as equal. However, some men still derive sadistic pleasure when they harass their women colleagues because they perceive them as strong competitors

while others behave as if "they were wreaking vengeance on them for venturing out of homes". In order to correct this distortion in male perception, the attitude of the society has to be changed through exemplary behaviour by some and its emulation by others.

In a nuclear family, the career wife has to manage two fronts with paucity of time and energy. For such career-women, the establishment of creches or availability of baby-sitters at reasonable charges is a requirement that must be made available. This will free her from the tension of rearing her child in a safe environment.

### **Banning of fairs and festivals**

**Q. If all the fairs and festivals are banned in the world, what will happen. Mention three possible consequences if such a situation takes place.**

**Ans.** There is no gainsaying the fact that the spectrum of life, whether individual, community, national or even international, is rich and ringing simply because of its cultural legacy or heritage. Besides the myriad faces of land-scape, varied seasons and climates, spectacular scenes that nature offers in flora and fauna the relevance and reverence of fairs and festivals all over the world, are a treat and feast in themselves indeed. If all fairs and festivals are banned, we will all be poorer.

Fairs and festivals are the life-blood of a nation. Their occurrence at different points of time are like a fresh whiff of air in an otherwise boring life of a community, group or religious congregation. Once these colourful and cultural manifestations of past history and traditions are erased, people will be left high and dry to lead an uninteresting and uninspiring life. Their link with their past heritage will be snapped and they will have to cope with the new situation with a heavy heart and a resentful mind. The coming generations will be deprived of the knowledge, ecstasy and excellence that these fairs and festivals represent.

Most fairs and festivals are associated with seasonal changes, harvesting occa-

sions, legends and memorable events, birth of some religions and supreme sacrifices made in the name of righteousness and truth, and the like. Their disappearance will bring about a vacuum in the lives of communities and religious groups. Numerous festivities, gaiety and fervour that these fairs and festivals provide to the people of all hues, will vanish leaving behind a bitter trail of boredom and banal execution of routine activities. The happy and healthy changes that fairs and festivals bring about in the social atmosphere and among different communities, will receive a severe set-back. For a country like India, fairs and festivals provide a much-desired opportunity to renew old friendships and relations among members of different religious groups and thus foster an emotional integration and a common national legacy.

The celebration of fairs and festivals also means an impetus to economic activity. People look forward to buying new things, wearing new clothes and exchanging gifts with near and dear ones during festival. When these are banned, how many hands will be unemployed and how many hearts will be deprived of their excitement, exuberance and exhilaration, is difficult to describe in words. That will be a sad day indeed when all fairs and festivals are banned by an all-powerful lunatic or a perverted mind.

### **Assessment of teachers by students**

**Q. Some people feel that students in colleges and universities should assess their teachers. Give two arguments in favour and two against the proposition.**

#### **Arguments in favour of the proposition**

1. The speed with which teaching as a noble vocation has degenerated into part-time business for many a college and university teacher calls for a drastic remedy. If some right thinking people feel that the malady of waywardness and truancy on the part of teachers has reached such a stage as needs an urgent operation, their voice should be given a patient hearing

and the remedy suggested by them be given a fair trial. Heavens would not fall if in future the students, both at the college and university levels, are asked to assess their teachers and on their assessment the promotion or demotion of teachers is decided. So far this role has been played by seniors but the sorry state of affairs, can brook no such nonsense any longer.

2. Absenteeism or casual attitude towards teaching at the college and university levels has assumed alarming proportions. Since higher education in India is based on Western values or yardsticks, there is no harm if we emulate their practice in the field of assessment of teachers by students here also. If Western standards and orientation is good for academic and research excellence, why should we shy away from the proposition that 'students should evaluate the performance of their teachers' to stem the rot and rejuvenate the sick-system?

#### **Arguments against the proposition**

1. The advocates of the proposition seem to assume too much as far as the intelligence and objectivity of our students is concerned. Perhaps they are not aware of the fact that quite a large number of students at the college and university levels come for fun and frolic only. Some of them hardly know the faces of their teachers or the location of their class rooms. To ask them to assess their teachers is like putting the cart before the horse. Thus the remedy suggested by some right thinking people may prove worse than the disease. If degeneration has taken place in the teaching vocation, it is a reflection of an all-round erosion of values and commitments over comforts and monetary benefit.

2. Moreover, students both at the college and university levels have become highly politicised. They judge every issue with a jaundiced eye that their political mentors have injected. They are highly emotional and immature as far as the credentials and academic accomplishments of their teachers are concerned. We cannot hand over such a big responsibility to such a lot.



# Quantitative Aptitude

Assistant Station Masters' Exam (RRB, Bombay), 9th June, 1996

- Find the value of  $\frac{4 - \sqrt{6}}{2\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}}$ ?  
(a)  $\sqrt{2}$  (b) 17 (c) 2 (d) 1
- A grocer mixes 26 kg of tea which costs him Rs 2.00 a kg with 30 kg of tea which costs Rs 3.60 a kg and sells the mixture at Rs 3.00 a kg. What is the total percentage of gain?  
(a) 8% (b) 5% (c) 10%  
(d) No profit, no loss
- For what value of  $n$ , the number  $5n3457$  is divisible by 11?  
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 9
- The ratio of the perimeters of two squares is 3 : 4. The ratio of their areas will be.  
(a) 3 : 4 (b) 9 : 16 (c)  $\sqrt{3} : 3$  (d)  $\sqrt{3} : 2$
- Find  $n$  if  $n : 3.6 = 3.6 : 2.4$ ?  
(a) 4.8 (b) 2.4 (c) 3.6 (d) 5.4
- How many pieces of cloth each 8 metres long can be cut from a roll of 640 kms?  
(a) 80 (b) 800 (c) 8000 (d) 80,000
- The area of a triangle is 126 sq metres and its base is 28 metres. Find the height?  
(a) 18 metres (b) 12 metres (c) 9 metres  
(d) 6 metres
- Solve for  $n$ ;  $n - \frac{n}{12} - \frac{n}{15} = 850$ ?  
(a) 1000 (b) 1500 (c) 1800  
(d) 2000 (e) None of these
- Find the least number which when decreased by 11 is divisible by 14, 15, 21, 22 and 60?  
(a) 3349 (b) 3352 (c) 4631 (d) 3381
- A and B cover a certain distance at the speeds which are in the ratio 3 : 4. A takes 20 minutes more than B to reach the destination. In what time A reaches the destination?  
(a)  $1\frac{1}{3}$  hr (b) 2 hrs (c)  $2\frac{2}{3}$  hrs (d)  $1\frac{2}{3}$  hrs
- $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  of a certain money is Rs 4350. Find five times that sum?  
(a) Rs 348 (b) Rs 3480 (c) Rs 1740  
(d) Rs 362.50
- Solve the following :  $\frac{1}{3 - \frac{1}{7 - \frac{1}{7}}}$   
(a) 1 (b)  $\frac{2}{7}$  (c)  $\frac{48}{137}$  (d)  $\frac{1}{2}$
- The average of 7 members is 39 and the average of 3 of them is 27. Find the average of the other four.  
(a) 45 (b) 46 (c) 47 (d) 48
- A 150 metre long train moving at a speed of 30 m/sec passes a man moving in opposite direction with a speed of 5 m/sec. How many seconds will it take the train to pass the man?  
(a) 3 (b)  $4\frac{2}{7}$  (c) 4 (d) 6  
(e) None of these
- A train starts from Agra to Mathura at a speed of 60 kmph and reaches there in 45 minutes. If on return its speed is reduced by 10%, how long will it take to reach Agra from Mathura?  
(a) 1 hour 10 minutes (b) 50 minutes  
(c) 1 hour (d) 1 hour 20 minutes  
(e) None of these
- If 45 men complete a piece of work in 30 days working 12 hours a day, in how many days will 60 men complete that work working 10 hours a day?  
(a) 31 (b) 29 (c) 27 (d) 33  
(e) None of these
- A map has been drawn with scale as 0.8 cm = 8.8 km. What is the actual distance between the points shown 80.5 cms apart on the map?  
(a) 885.5 km (b) 905 km (c) 700 km (d) 990 km
- 10 men or 18 boys can complete a piece of work in 15 days. In how many days will 25 men and 15 boys complete the double of that work?  
(a)  $\frac{9}{2}$  (b) 9 (c) 36 (d) 18  
(e) None of these
- If a certain sum amounts to Rs 8820 in 3 years and to Rs 9261 in 4 years at compound interest, what is the rate per cent per annum?  
(a) 4% (b) 3% (c) 5% (d) 6% (e) 7%
- Ram and Shyam jointly lend out Rs 17261 at 5% per annum compound interest such that the Ram's amount for 2 years is the same as is the Shyam's amount for 5 years. By how much does the Ram's sum exceed the Shyam's sum?  
(a) Rs 8000 (b) Rs 9261 (c) Rs 4000 (d) Rs 1261
- If the principal of Rs 600 amounts to Rs 720 in 4 years at simple interest, what will it amount to, if the rate of interest is raised by 2%.  
(a) Rs 760 (b) Rs 780 (c) Rs 768  
(d) Rs 792 (e) Rs 765
- A certain sum of money was deposited in a bank and it became twofold in 10 years. What is the rate of simple interest?

(a) 8% (b) 15% (c) 12% (d) 10% (e) 14%

23. What principal at 10% per annum interest will bring the same simple interest in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years as is brought by a principal of Rs 500 at 5% per annum interest in 6 years?

- (a) Rs 2000 (b) Rs 1500 (c) Rs 1600 (d) Rs 1000  
(e) None of these

24. Selling an article Varun earns  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of its cost price as the profit. If he sold the article for Rs 375, what was the cost price of it?

- (a) Rs 275 (b) Rs 300 (c) Rs 320  
(d) Rs 325 (e) Rs 350

25. The marked price of an article is Rs 150. Two successive discounts are allowed on it. If the second discount be  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$  and the selling price of the article be Rs 105, what was his first discount?

- (a) 15% (b) 20% (c) 10% (d) 25% (e) 30%

26. A manufacturer gains 5% from a retailer on an article, who subsequently earns a profit of 8% on his investment from the purchaser. If the article costs the purchaser Rs 283.50, how much had the manufacturer spent on the article?

- (a) Rs 270 (b) Rs 260 (c) Rs 265 (d) Rs 250

27. A bookseller sold two books at the rate of Rs 240 per book. If he gains 20% over the sale of one book and loses 20% on the other, what did he gain or lose on the whole outlay?

- (a) gain of Rs 20 (b) loss of Rs 10  
(c) loss of Rs 20 (d) neither loss nor gain  
(e) None of these

28. A tradesman marks the price of his goods 40% above its actual cost price. If he allows 10% discount on the marked price, what percentage of profit does he receive?

- (a) 30% (b) 36% (c) 40% (d) 26% (e) 20%

29. In a factory there are employed 600 men and 400 women and their average daily wage is Rs 2.55. If a woman worker receives 50 paise per day less than a male worker does, what are the daily wages of each female worker?

- (a) Rs 2.50 (b) Rs 2.25 (c) Rs 2.75  
(d) Rs 2.00 (e) Rs 2.20

30. Two years before, the average age of 8 members of a family was 20 years. If the present average of the family, even on the inclusion of one child, remains the same, what is the present age of the child?

- (a) 2 yrs (b) 6 yrs (c) 4 yrs  
(d) 8 yrs (e) 10 yrs

31. A train has to travel a distance of 360 km. If it covers  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the total distance at 30 km/hr,  $\frac{1}{4}$ th at 20 km/hr and the remaining distance in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs, what is the average speed of the train in km/hr?

- (a) 36 (b) 24 (c) 32 (d) 25 (e) None of these

32. The average age of 20 boys is 14 years. A boy of age 16 leaves them and a new boy occupies his place. Now, if their average age is 13.8 years, what is the age of the new comer?

- (a) 14 years (b) 13 years (c) 12.5 years  
(d) 12 years (e) None of these

33. Square root of 0.0016 is;

- (a) 0.04 (b) 0.4 (c) 0.004 (d) 4

34. If  $\frac{x}{16} = \frac{196}{x}$ . What is the value of x?

- (a) 12.25 (b) 28 (c) 56 (d) 24

35. The value of  $\frac{\sqrt{121}}{11} \times \frac{45}{\sqrt{169}} \times \frac{13}{\sqrt{225}}$  is:

- (a) 3 (b) 35.96 (c) 10.83 (d) 5.36  
(e) None of these

36. Square root of  $\frac{16.9}{25.6}$  is:

- (a)  $\frac{9}{16}$  (b)  $\frac{13}{14}$  (c)  $\frac{13}{16}$   
(d)  $1\frac{3}{16}$  (e) None of these

37. Two partners respectively invest Rs 12500 and Rs 8500 in a business. If in the profit one partner receives Rs 300 more than the other, what is the total profit?

- (a) Rs 1475 (b) Rs 1675 (c) Rs 1575  
(d) Rs 1570 (e) Rs 1585

38. Ram, Shyam and Mohan rent a pasture for grazing the cows for Rs 500. Ram grazed 15 cows for 6 months and Shyam grazed 12 cows for 5 months. If Mohan grazed 25 cows for 4 months in the pasture, what rent will be paid by Mohan?

- (a) Rs 180 (b) Rs 200 (c) Rs 250  
(d) Rs 240 (e) Rs 220

39. Rahim, Karim and Shamim invest Rs 2000, Rs 3000 and Rs 4000 respectively in a business. Rahim withdraws his capital 4 months later and Karim withdraws his capital 8 months later. If at the end of the year they make a profit of Rs 900, what will Rahim receive out of the profit?

- (a) Rs 270 (b) Rs 180 (c) Rs 540  
(d) Rs 90 (e) Rs 120

40.  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the marks obtained by Komal in music is equal to her marks obtained in English. If her aggregate in both the subjects be 160, how many marks did she obtain in music?

- (a) 40 (b) 60 (c) 80 (d) 90 (e) 120

41. A certain sum was divided amidst A, B and C such that when A gets Re 1, B gets 65 paise and C gets 40 paise. If C's share be Rs 40, what was the total sum?

- (a) Rs 82 (b) Rs 126.15 (c) Rs 105  
(d) Rs 205 (e) None of these

42. If  $A : B = 3 : 4$  and  $B : C = 8 : 9$  then  $A : B : C$  is equal to:

- (a) 8 : 6 : 9 (b) 6 : 8 : 9 (c) 9 : 8 : 6 (d) 3 : 32 : 9

43. A log 90 metres long is coloured white, black and blue in the ratio of 5 : 6 : 7. What is the length of the white portion in metres?

- (a) 30 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25 (e) None of these

44. If Rs 3060 be divided in the ratio of  $\frac{1}{6} : \frac{1}{4} : \frac{1}{3}$ , what will be the value of the second part?

- (a) Rs 680 (b) Rs 340 (c) Rs 1360

(d) Rs 1020 (e) None of these  
 45. Ram and Shyam together can do a work in 8 days. Both jointly started a work. Ram fell ill after 3 days. Shyam, working alone, completed the remaining work in 15 days. In how many days can Shyam alone complete the work?

- (a) 20 (b) 16 (c) 18  
 (d) 24 (e) None of these

46. Ram, Shyam and Mohan jointly did a work for which they were paid Rs 63.35 as remuneration. If the whole of work is completed by Ram, Shyam and Mohan in 2 days, 4 days and 8 days respectively, what should be paid to Shyam as remuneration?

- (a) Rs 10.15 (b) Rs 60.20 (c) Rs 9.05 (d) Rs 18.10

47. Two pipes can separately fill up a cistern in 2 hours and 3 hours respectively. If both the pipes are open simultaneously, in how many minutes the cistern will be filled?

- (a) 60 (b) 80 (c) 72  
 (d) 51 (e) None of these

48. The rate of sugar rises from Rs 6.00 per kg to Rs 7.50 per kg. By what per cent should a consumer reduce the consumption of sugar so that he may not have to increase expenses on sugar?

- (a) 25% (b) 30% (c) 20%  
 (d) 15% (e) None of these

49. In an examination 51% students failed in English whereas 45% failed in Mathematics. If 21% students failed in both the subjects and 169 students passed the examination, what is the total number of students who appeared in the examination?

- (a) 500 (b) 600 (c) 660  
 (d) 676 (e) None of these

50. If the price of pressure cooker is increased by 15% and the number of pressure cookers to be sold declines by 15%, what effect it will have on the amount of money received from sale?

- (a) No effect (b) fall of 15%  
 (c) fall of 2.25% (d) fall of 7.5%  
 (e) None of these

51. If  $75\%$  of  $480 = ? \times 15$ , by which of the following numbers should the sign of interrogation (?), be replaced?

- (a) 32 (b) 360 (c) 18 (d) 24  
 (e) None of these

52. Which of the following is the value of:

$$\frac{0.4 \times 0.4 \times 0.4 - 0.3 \times 0.3 \times 0.3}{0.8 \times 0.8 \times 0.8 - 0.6 \times 0.6 \times 0.6}$$

- (a) 0.25 (b) 1.75 (c) 1.25  
 (d) 0.125 (e) None of these

53. Find the value of  $\frac{4.669 \times 4.669 - 2.331 \times 2.331}{(4.669)^2 + (2.331)^2 + 4.669 \times 4.662}$

- (a) 0.668 (b) 0.334 (c) 0.167 (d) 7.000  
 (e) None of these

54. What is the value of  $\frac{3}{7}$ th of  $(2\frac{4}{19} \text{ of } 2\frac{1}{9})$ ?

- (a) 5 (b) 2 (c) 1 (d)  $\frac{1}{19}$  (e) None of these

55. A house lady burns 27 kg of fuel every week.  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the fuel is wood and the rest is coal. If one year counts 52 weeks, what is the amount of coal spent during the whole year?

- (a) 465 kilogram (b) 468 kilogram (c) 470 kg  
 (d) 471 kg (e) None of these

56. Man Mohan spends  $\frac{1}{5}$ th of his income to meet his pocket expenses and  $\frac{4}{5}$ th remainder to meet other expenses. If he saves Rs 48 per month, what is his monthly income?

- (a) Rs 360 (b) Rs 400 (c) Rs 320  
 (d) Rs 300 (e) None of these

57.  $\frac{1}{6}$ th of the viewers of a football match were sitting under covered shade whereas 4000 viewers sat in open ground. What was the total number of viewers?

- (a) 4500 (b) 4400 (c) 4800 (d) 4200

58. Find out the LCM of  $\frac{2}{3}$ ,  $\frac{8}{15}$  and  $\frac{10}{21}$ .

- (a) 40 (b) 3 (c)  $13\frac{1}{3}$  (d) 37  
 (e) None of these

59. A military officer wants his soldiers to fall in rows of 12, 15, 18 and 20 soldiers each. He also wants his soldiers to form a solid square, what is the minimum number of soldiers required?

- (a) 180 (b) 360 (c) 900 (d) 1440  
 (e) None of these

60. A tradesman has three qualities of oil in the quantity of 403 litres, 434 litres and 465 litres. He wants to fill these in different tins of same capacity. What should be the least required number of tins?

- (a) 21 (b) 42 (c) 7 (d) 84  
 (e) None of these

61. Komal, Sumati and Meetu bought some pictures, all having equal costs. If they spent Rs 3, Rs 6.75 and Rs 5.75 respectively in buying them, what is the maximum price of picture?

- (a) Re 1.75 (b) Re 1.50 (c) Re 0.50 (d) Re 0.75  
 (e) None of these

62. What is twice the difference between the biggest and smallest 5-digit numbers formed with digits 0, 2, 3, 6 and 7?

- (a) 101906 (b) 71816 (c) 111906  
 (d) 116226 (e) None of these

63. What is the ten's digit in the product of  $207 \times 781 \times 39 \times 94$ ?

- (a) 9 (b) 1 (c) 7 (d) 2 (e) None of these

64. How many prime numbers are there between 1 and 20?

- (a) 6 (b) 9 (c) 8 (d) 7 (e) None of these

65. The difference between the place values of both the 2's in 3212 is:

- (a) 0 (b) 197 (c) 198 (d) 288 (e) None of these

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (a)  $\frac{4-\sqrt{6}}{2\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{3}} \times \frac{2\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{2}-\sqrt{3}} = \frac{8\sqrt{2}-2\sqrt{12}+4\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{18}}{8-3}$   
 $= \frac{8\sqrt{2}-4\sqrt{3}+4\sqrt{3}-3\sqrt{2}}{5} = \frac{5\sqrt{2}}{5} = \sqrt{2}$
2. (b) Gain =  $3 \times (26 + 30) - (2 \times 26 + 30 \times 3.60) = \text{Rs } 8$   
 Gain% =  $\frac{8}{160} \times 100 = 5\%$
3. (a) Sum of digits at odd places =  $7 + 4 + n = 11 + n$   
 Sum of digits at even places =  $5 + 3 + 5 = 13$   
 Difference =  $11 + n - 13 = n - 2$   
 Clearly  $n = 2$  if this diff. is 0 or divisible by 11 then the no. is divisible by 11
4. (b) Let the perimeters of two squares be  $3x$  and  $4x$   
 $\therefore$  Sides are  $\frac{3x}{4}, \frac{4x}{4}$   
 Ratio of areas =  $(\frac{3x}{4})^2 : (\frac{4x}{4})^2 = 9 : 16$
5. (d)  $n \times 2.4 = 3.6 \times 3.6 \therefore n = \frac{3.6 \times 3.6}{2.4} = 5.4$
6. (d) No. of pieces =  $\frac{640 \times 1000}{8} = 80,000$
7. (c)  $H = \frac{2A}{B} = \frac{2 \times 126}{28} = 9 \text{ m}$
8. (a)  $n - \frac{n}{12} - \frac{n}{15} = 850$  or  $\frac{180n - 15n - 12n}{180} = 850$   
 $\therefore n = \frac{850 \times 180}{153} = 1000$
9. (c) LCM of 14, 15, 21, 22, 60 = 4620  
 $\therefore$  Reqd no. =  $4620 + 11 = 4631$
10. (a) Inverse ratio. Let the time taken by A be  $t$  hrs  
 $\frac{t - \frac{20}{60}}{t} = \frac{3}{4}$  or  $t = \frac{4}{3} = 1\frac{1}{3} \text{ hr}$
11. (c)  $12\frac{1}{2}\% \text{ of } n = 4350 \Rightarrow \frac{25}{2} \times \frac{1}{100} \times n = 43.50 \Rightarrow n = 348$   
 $5x = 5 \times 348 = \text{Rs } 1740$
12. (c)  $\frac{1}{3 - \frac{1}{7 - \frac{1}{7}}} = \frac{1}{3 - \frac{1}{\frac{48}{7}}} = \frac{1}{3 - \frac{7}{48}} = \frac{1}{\frac{147-7}{48}} = \frac{48}{137}$
13. (d) Reqd average =  $\frac{1}{4} [7 \times 39 - 3 \times 27] = 48$
14. (b) Reqd time =  $\frac{150}{30+5} = \frac{150}{35} = \frac{30}{7} = 4\frac{2}{7} \text{ secs}$
15. (b)  $D = S \times t = 60 \times \frac{45}{60} = 45 \text{ km}$   
 Reqd time =  $\frac{45 \text{ hrs}}{60 \times \frac{90}{100}} = \frac{45}{54} \times 60 = 50 \text{ minutes}$
16. (c) 

Men	hrs	days	more men	less days
45	12	30	60 : 45	} $\therefore 30 : x$
60	10	$x$	less hrs more days	
				10 : 12

 $\therefore x = \frac{30 \times 45 \times 12}{60 \times 10} - 27$
17. (a) Actual distance =  $\frac{8.8 \times 80.5}{0.8} = 885.5 \text{ km}$
18. (b)  $10M = 18B \therefore 25M = \frac{18}{10} \times 25 = 45$   
 $25M + 15B = 45B + 15 = 60B$   

Boys	Work	Days		
18	1	15	$\therefore 60 : 15$	} $15 : x$
60	2	$x$	1 : 2	

 $\text{or } x = \frac{15 \times 18 \times 2}{60 \times 1} = 9$
19. (c) Interest for 1 year =  $9261 - 8820 = 441$   
 $\therefore R = \frac{441}{8820} \times \frac{100}{1} = 5\%$
20. (d) Let Shyam's share be Rs  $x$   
 $\therefore \text{ATS} \times (1 + \frac{20}{100})^5 = (17261 - x)(1 + \frac{20}{100})^5 \Rightarrow x = 8000$   
 Ram's share =  $17261 - 8000 = 9261$   
 Diff =  $9261 - 8000 = \text{Rs } 1261$
21. (c)  $R = \frac{(720 - 600) \times 100}{600 \times 4} = 5\%$   
 $\text{SI} = \frac{600 \times (5 + 2) \times 4}{100} = 168, A = 600 + 168 = 768$
22. (d)  $P = \text{Rs } 100 \therefore A = \text{Rs } 200$   
 $\therefore \text{SI} = \text{Rs } 100 \quad R = \frac{100 \times 100}{100 \times 10} = 10\%$
23. (d)  $P \times \frac{10}{100} \times \frac{3}{2} = 500 \times \frac{5}{100} \times 6 \therefore P = \text{Rs } 1000$
24. (b) Let C.P. = Rs  $x \quad P = \text{Rs } \frac{x}{4}$   
 $\therefore \text{S.P.} = x + \frac{x}{4} = 375 \Rightarrow x = \text{Rs } 300$
25. (b)  $150 \times (\frac{100-x}{100}) (\frac{100-\frac{25}{2}}{100}) = 105 \therefore x = 20\%$
26. (d) Money spent by manufacturer  
 $= 283.50 \times \frac{100}{(100+8)} \times \frac{100}{(100+5)} = \text{Rs } 250$
27. (c) I CP =  $\frac{240 \times 100}{100+20} = \text{Rs } 200$   
 II CP =  $\frac{240 \times 100}{100-20} = \text{Rs } 300$   
 Total C.P. =  $200 + 300 = \text{Rs } 500$   
 Total S.P. =  $240 \times 2 = 480$   
 Loss =  $500 - 480 = \text{Rs } 20$
28. (b) Let CP be Rs 100  $\therefore$  MP = Rs  $100 + 40 = \text{Rs } 140$   
 $\text{SP} = 140 \times \frac{90}{100} = 126$

- $\therefore P = 126 - 100 = \text{Rs } 26 \quad \therefore P\% = 26\%$
29. (b) Let the daily wages of each female worker be Rs  $x$   
 $\therefore$  The daily wages of a male worker is Rs  $(x + \frac{1}{2})$
- $$\text{ATS} \frac{x \times 400 + (x + \frac{1}{2}) \times 600}{400 + 600} = 2.55 \Rightarrow x = \text{Rs } 2.25$$
30. (c) Present total age of 8 members =  $8 \times 20 + 8 \times 2$   
 $= 176$  yrs  
 $176 + \text{child's age} = 9 \times 20$   
 $\therefore$  Child's present age =  $180 - 176 = 4$  yrs
31. (e)  $t_1 = \frac{360 \times \frac{1}{3}}{30} = 4$  hrs,  $t_2 = \frac{360}{20} = \frac{9}{2}$ ,  $t_3 = 6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs  
 Total time =  $4 + 4\frac{1}{2} + 6\frac{1}{2} = 15$  hrs  
 Average speed =  $\frac{360}{15} = 40$  km/hr
32. (d) Age of new comer =  $20 \times 13.8 - (20 \times 14 - 16) = 12$  yrs
33. (a)  $\sqrt{.0016} = \sqrt{\frac{16}{10000}} = \frac{4}{100} = 0.04$
34. (c)  $\frac{x}{16} = \frac{196}{x} \Rightarrow x^2 = 16 \times 196 \Rightarrow x = \sqrt{16 \times 196} = 4 \times 14 = 56$
35. (a)  $\frac{\sqrt{121}}{11} \times \frac{45}{\sqrt{169}} \times \frac{13}{\sqrt{225}} = \frac{11}{11} \times \frac{45}{13} \times \frac{13}{15} = 3$
36. (c)  $\sqrt{\frac{16.9}{25.6}} = \sqrt{\frac{169}{256}} = \frac{13}{16}$
37. (c) Ratio of profits = Ratio of investments =  $12500 : 8500$   
 $= 25 : 17$
- Let the profit be  $25x, 17x$   
 Total profit =  $25x + 17x = 42x$   
 ATS  $25x - 17x = 300$   
 $x = \frac{300}{8}$   
 Total profit =  $\frac{300}{8} \times 42 = \text{Rs } 1575$
38. (b) Ram grazed 15 cows for 6 months =  $15 \times 6 = 90$  cows for 1 month  
 Shyam grazed  $12 \times 5$  i.e. 60 cows for 1 month  
 and Mohan grazed  $25 \times 4$  i.e. 100 cows for 1 month  
 Ratio =  $90 : 60 : 100 = 9 : 6 : 10$   
 Sum =  $9 + 6 + 10 = 25$   
 Rent paid by Mohan =  $\frac{10}{25} \times 500 = \text{Rs } 200$
39. (d) Rahim's capital for 1 month =  $2000 \times 4 = \text{Rs } 8000$   
 Karim's capital for 1 month =  $3000 \times 8 = \text{Rs } 24000$   
 Shamim's capital for 1 month =  $4000 \times 12 = \text{Rs } 48000$   
 Ratio =  $8000 : 24000 : 48000 = 1 : 3 : 6$   
 Rahim's profit =  $\frac{1}{1+3+6} \times 900 = \text{Rs } 90$
40. (e) Let the marks obtained in music be  $x$   
 A.T.S.  $x + \frac{x}{3} = 160 \Rightarrow x = 120$

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41. (d) Ratio of shares of A, B & C = 100 p : 65 p : 40 p  
 $= 20 : 13 : 8$   
 Sum of ratios = 20 + 13 + 8 = 41  
 If C's share is Rs 8, then total sum = Rs 41  
 If C's share is Rs 40, then total sum =  $\frac{41}{8} \times 40 = \text{Rs } 205$
42. (b) A : B : C  
 $3 : 4$   
 $8 : 9 = 3 \times 8 : 4 \times 9 = 24 : 32 : 36$   
 $= 6 : 8 : 9$
43. (d) Req'd length =  $\frac{5}{5+6+7} \times 90 = 25 \text{ m}$
44. (a)  $\frac{1}{6} : \frac{1}{4} : \frac{1}{3} = 2 : 3 : 4$   
 Value of IInd part =  $\frac{3}{2+3+4} \times 3060 = 1020$
45. (d) (Ram & Shyam)'s 3 day's work =  $3\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)$   
 Remaining work =  $1 - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$   
 Shyam completed  $\frac{5}{8}$  of work in 15 days  
 Shyam can complete the whole work in  $15 \times \frac{8}{5} = 24 \text{ days}$
46. (d) Ratio of the work done by Ram, Shyam and Mohan in one day respectively =  $\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{4} : \frac{1}{8} = 4 : 2 : 1$   
 Shyam should be paid =  $\frac{2}{4+2+1} \times 63.35 = \text{Rs } 18.10$
47. (c) The cistern will be filled in 1 hour =  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{6} \text{th}$   
 $\therefore$  Total time taken to fill the cistern =  $\frac{6}{5} \text{ hr}$   
 $= 72 \text{ minutes}$
48. (a) Reduction% =  $\frac{7.50 - 6.00}{6.00} \times 100 = 25\%$
49. (d) Students failed in at least one subject  
 $= 51\% + 45\% - 21\% = 75\%$   
 $\therefore$  Students passed =  $(100 - 75)\% \text{ i.e. } 25\%$   
 A.T.S. 25% of x = 169  $\therefore x = 676$
50. (c) Let the original price of cooker be Rs x and the no. of cookers sold be y  $\therefore$  Original sale = Rs xy  
 New sale =  $(x \times \frac{115}{100}) (y \times \frac{85}{100}) = \frac{391}{400}xy$   
 Reduction in sale =  $xy - \frac{391}{400}xy = \frac{9xy}{400}$   
 $\therefore$  %age reduction =  $\frac{\frac{9xy}{400}}{xy} \times 100 = 2.25\%$
51. (d) 75% of 480 = x  $\times 15 \therefore x = \frac{75}{100} \times \frac{480}{15} = 24$
52. (d) Given exp. =  $\frac{(.4)^3 - (.3)^3}{(.8)^3 - (.6)^3} = \frac{(.4)^3 - (.3)^3}{2^3[(.4)^3 - (.3)^3]} = \frac{1}{8} = .125$

53. (b)  $\frac{(4.669)^2 - (2.331)^2}{(4.669)^2 + (2.331)^2 + 2 \times 4.669 \times 2.331}$   
 $= \frac{(4.669 - 2.331)(4.669 + 2.331)}{(4.669 + 2.331)^2}$   
 $\frac{(a-b)(a+b)}{(a+b)^2} = \frac{a-b}{a+b} = \frac{4.669 - 2.331}{4.669 + 2.331} = \frac{2.338}{7} = 0.334$
54. (b)  $\frac{3}{7}$  of  $(2\frac{4}{19}$  of  $2\frac{1}{9}) = \frac{3}{7}$  of  $(\frac{42}{19}$  of  $\frac{19}{9}) = \frac{3}{7}$  of  $\frac{42}{9} = 2$
55. (b)  $\frac{2}{3}$  rd of fuel is wood  $\therefore \frac{1}{3}$  rd of fuel is coal =  $\frac{27}{3} = 9 \text{ kg}$   
 Amount of coal spent during the whole year =  $9 \times 52 = 468 \text{ kg}$
56. (d) Let the income be Rs x  $\therefore$  pocket expenses = Rs  $\frac{x}{5}$   
 Remainder =  $x - \frac{x}{5} = \text{Rs } \frac{4x}{5}$ , other expenses =  $\frac{4x}{5} \times \frac{4}{5} = \frac{16x}{25}$   
 Saving  $\frac{4x}{5} - \frac{16x}{25} = \frac{4x}{25} = 48$   
 $\therefore x = 48 \times \frac{25}{4} \quad x = \text{Rs } 300$   
 Income = Rs 300
57. (c) Let the total no. of viewers be x  
 No. of viewers sitting in open ground =  $(1 - \frac{1}{6})$  of x  
 $= 4000$   
 $\therefore x = 4000 \times \frac{6}{5} = 4800$
58. (c) LCM of  $\frac{2}{3}, \frac{8}{15}, \frac{10}{21} = \frac{\text{LCM of } 2, 8, 10}{\text{HCF of } 3, 15, 21} = \frac{40}{3} = 13\frac{1}{3}$
59. (c) LCM of 12, 15, 18, 20 =  $2^2 \times 3^2 \times 5$   
 Minimum no. of soldiers req'd. to form a solid square =  $2^2 \times 3^2 \times 5 \times 5 = 900$
60. (b) Capacity of the tins = HCF of 403, 434, 465 = 31  
 Least no. of tins req'd. =  $\frac{403}{31} + \frac{434}{31} + \frac{465}{31} = 13 + 14 + 15 = 42$
61. (d) Max price of picture  
 $= \text{HCF of } 3 \times 100, 5.75 \times 100, 6.75 \times 100$   
 $\text{HCF of } 300, 575, 675 = 75 \text{ paise} = \text{Re } 0.75$
62. (c) Largest 5-digit no. formed by the digits 0, 2, 3, 6, 7  
 $= 76320$   
 Smallest 5-digit = 20367  
 Diff. =  $76320 - 20367 = 55953$   
 $2 \times \text{diff.} = 2 \times 55953 = 111906$
63. (d)
64. (c) Prime nos. between 1 and 20 are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19 i.e., 8
65. (c) Place value of 1st 2 in 3212 = 200  
 Place value of 2nd 2 in 3212 = 2  
 Difference =  $\underline{198}$

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**TTE Commercial Clerks Exam held by RRB Mumbai on 23rd June 1996**

**Compulsory Note** Write three lines on "Deepawali" in the space provided on the Answer Sheet in English or Hindi

In Questions 1 to 5. Choose the correct word out of the given alternatives to fill in the blanks in each sentence.

1. He appealed\_\_\_\_\_the high court\_\_\_\_\_the judgment of the district court

- (1) to\_\_\_\_\_against
- (2) with\_\_\_\_\_for
- (3) against\_\_\_\_\_for
- (4) for\_\_\_\_\_against

2. We are justified in accusing him\_\_\_\_\_theft

- (1) of
- (2) with
- (3) for
- (4) due to

3. The problem must be studied\_\_\_\_\_all angles

- (1) from
- (2) with
- (3) for
- (4) in

4. She takes delight\_\_\_\_\_teasing boys.

- (1) at
- (2) in
- (3) by
- (4) on

5. Books were lying\_\_\_\_\_the curtain

- (1) under
- (2) below
- (3) behind
- (4) after

In Questions 6 to 10. There are four different spellings of a common word. Out of these, only one spelling is correct. Point out the correct spelling.

6. (1) Benefited  
(2) Benefitted  
(3) Benifitted  
(4) Benifited
7. (1) Exempssion  
(2) Exempssion  
(3) Exumption  
(4) Exemption
8. (1) Amateur  
(2) Amatuer

- (3) Amature
- (4) Ameteur
9. (1) Commitee  
(2) Comittee  
(3) Committee  
(4) Committey
10. (1) Servent  
(2) Servant  
(3) Sarvant  
(4) Sarvent

In questions 11 to 20. The following sentences contain errors in grammar, usage, diction (choice of words) and idiom. Some sentences may be correct. No sentence has more than one error. The portions not underlined are correct. Select the Underlined Part that according to you contains the error. Its number is the answer. If there is no error answer is 5.

11. The population of Calcutta(1) is greater(2) than Delhi(3) although(4) Delhi is the capital of India. No error.(5)

12. Either(1) Ramesh or Suresh forgot(2) to take(3) their(4) pen. No error.(5)

13. Six kilometres(1) are(2) a(3) long(4) distance. No error.(5)

14. We can't hardly(1) believe that the situation is so serious as(2) to justify(3) such precautions as you have taken (4) No error.(5)

15. The dealer who had(1) sent three orders and(2) two requests for(3) window display were(4) visited by our representative. No error.(5)

16. To my(1) surprise, this man whom(2) I thought(3) was(4) crazy spoke quite sensibly. No error.(5)

17. He has requested to(1) the manager once again to(2) mediate in(3) the dispute and help settle(4) it. No error (5)

18. Of all(1) the other students(2) in the class, the teachers were unanimous(3) that Rajiv was the most(4) versatile. No error.(5)

19. An(1) honest man is(2) the noble(3) work(4) of God. No error (5)

20. Nobody in their senses(1) would have(2) uttered(3) such silly remarks.(4) No error.(5)

In questions 21 to 25. Each of the

idioms or phrases is followed by four meanings out of which only one is correct. Pick out the correct meaning.

21. To turn over a new leaf.

- (1) to change the old habits and adopt new ones.
- (2) to cover up one's faults by wearing new masks.
- (3) to shift attention to new problems.
- (4) to change completely one's course of action.

22. To make hay while the sun shines.

- (1) to turn opportunity to the best advantage.
- (2) to turn a disappointment to the best possible count.
- (3) to treat as of great importance
- (4) to indulge in merry-making in good days.

23. To keep oneself to oneself.

- (1) to hide things from others.
- (2) to keep oneself alive.
- (3) to live apart without company.
- (4) to restrain oneself.

24. To carry one's point.

- (1) to have one's aim always in mind.
- (2) to explain one's opinion to others.
- (3) to attain the goal aimed at
- (4) to exercise authority with crushing force.

25. To bear the brunt of.

- (1) to endure the main force of.
- (2) to offer to carry the heaviest weight.
- (3) to give birth to some unsavoury matter.
- (4) to share the lightest of responsibilities.

Questions 26 to 30 consist of a short written conversation between two persons, a part of which has been omitted. Choose the alternative which correctly completes the conversation.

26. "Two of the boys are really very hardworking." "But\_\_\_\_\_are idlers."

- (1) others
- (2) the others



(3) the other boys

(4) other boys

27. "Do you know when the doctor arrived?" "Yes, he came after the patient \_\_\_\_\_."

(1) has died

(2) was dying

(3) died

(4) dies

28. "Ashok said that you have seen the movie three times." "Yes, I found it very \_\_\_\_\_."

(1) amusing

(2) amusingly

(3) amusement

(4) amusing

29. "Can we start our match?" "No, we can't unless the referee \_\_\_\_\_."

(1) does not give the signal.

(2) did not give the signal.

(3) will not give the signal.

(4) gives the signal.

30. "I have a large family to provide for." "Then you \_\_\_\_\_."

(1) must certainly be very extravagant in your habits.

(2) must certainly be very economical in your habits.

(3) must have been very economical in your habits.

(4) might be very economical in your habits.

In Questions 31 to 35. Each statement is followed by four words of which one expresses the statement correctly. Pick out the correct choice.

31. A school for infants and young children.

(1) nursery

(2) infantile

(3) crèche

(4) infirmary

32. The study of all heavenly bodies and the earth in relation to them.

(1) astrology

(2) palmistry

(3) astronomy

(4) cosmetics

33. Agreed by all.

(1) anonymous

(2) ambiguous

(3) majority

(4) unanimous

34. Living for years and years.

(1) annual

(2) permanent

(3) perennial

(4) continuous

35. An assembly of listeners.

(1) crowd

(2) audience

(3) spectators

(4) mob

In Questions 36 to 40. Select the word which is most similar in meaning to the given word in Capital letters.

36. INTEGRITY

(1) honesty

(2) selflessness

(3) selfishness

(4) durability

37. LETHAL

(1) sharp

(2) painful

(3) deadly

(4) large

38. RUDE

(1) protected

(2) impolite

(3) rough

(4) insulting

39. EXTRAVAGANT

(1) wasteful

(2) impecunious

(3) bankrupt

(4) excessive

40. CHARITY

(1) kindness

(2) philanthropy

(3) forgiveness

(4) sympathy

In questions 41 to 45. Select the word which is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in Capital letters.

41. RETREAT

(1) advance

(2) entice

(3) capture

(4) recede

42. GENUINE

(1) innocent

(2) plutonic

(3) real

(4) spurious

43. DEFICIT

(1) explicit

(2) implicit

(3) surplus

(4) superfluous

44. DISSENT

(1) ascent

(2) agreement

(3) accent

(4) convergence

45. ANALYSIS

(1) synthesis

(2) substitution

(3) replacement

(4) emphasis

In Questions 46 to 50. Select the proper substitution words for the following sentences.

46. His bright success was \_\_\_\_\_ all expectations.

(1) above

(2) over

(3) beyond

(4) exceeded

47. Copying in the examination is an \_\_\_\_\_ act.

(1) amoral

(2) immoral

(3) mortal

(4) immortal

48. He \_\_\_\_\_ down on the sofa yesterday.

(1) laid

(2) layed

(3) lays

(4) lay

49. The village was \_\_\_\_\_ by the earthquake.

(1) raised

(2) erased

(3) razed

(4) dazed

50. A horse rider has to adjust the saddle and \_\_\_\_\_ before riding

(1) rains

(2) reins

(3) reigns

(4) maines

#### ANSWERS

- |   |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. (1)                                      | 2. (1)  | 3. (1)  |
| 4. (2)                                      | 5. (3)  | 6. (1)  |
| 7. (4)                                      | 8. (1)  | 9. (3)  |
| 10. (2)                                     |         |         |
| 11. (3) 'is greater than that of Delhi'     |         |         |
| 12. (4) 'his pen'                           |         |         |
| 13. (2) 'is'                                |         |         |
| 14. (1) 'We can hardly believe...'          |         |         |
| 15. (4) 'was visited by our representative' |         |         |
| 16. (2) 'who'                               |         |         |
| 17. (1) 'He has requested the manager...'   |         |         |
| 18. (2) 'the students in the class'         |         |         |
| 19. (5) No error                            |         |         |
| 20. (1) 'Nobody in his senses'              |         |         |
| 21. (4)                                     | 22. (1) | 23. (3) |
| 24. (2)                                     | 25. (1) | 26. (2) |
| 27. (3)                                     | 28. (4) | 29. (4) |
| 30. (2)                                     | 31. (1) | 32. (3) |
| 33. (4)                                     | 34. (3) | 35. (2) |
| 36. (1)                                     | 37. (3) | 38. (2) |
| 39. (1)                                     | 40. (1) | 41. (1) |
| 42. (4)                                     | 43. (3) | 44. (2) |
| 45. (1)                                     | 46. (3) | 47. (2) |
| 48. (4)                                     | 49. (3) | 50. (2) |

# General Awareness

## Combined Defence Services Exam, July 1996

We are grateful to Saroshri Aditya Prakash of New Delhi, Satish Kumar of Patna, Rajeev Ratouri of Dehra Dun, Surinder Kumar Singh of Jalpaiguri (W.B.), Dinesh Singh Verma of Bharatpur and Vikas Surendran of Hyderabad for sending the Question Booklet of this exam to us.

- The drink that was consumed during religious ceremonies in the Vedic period was:
    - Sur
    - Soma
    - Madhu
    - Ghee
  - A bore made at Delhi to reach the centre of the earth would measure about:
    - 4,000 km
    - 6,000 km
    - 8,000 km
    - 10,000 km
  - How many layers are present in the atmosphere of the sun?
    - 1
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
  - Which one of the following most influenced the features of the Constitution of India?
    - Nehru Committee Report
    - Simon Commission Report
    - Recommendations of the three Round-Table Conferences
    - The Government of India Act of 1935
  - The Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), a Naxalite outfit is active in:
    - Telangana
    - Central Bihar
    - Northern portion of West Bengal
    - Southern Kerala
  - Which one of the following scripts is written from right to left?
    - Brahmi
    - Sharada
    - Nandnagari
    - Kharoshthi
  - In which one of the following positions does the earth revolve at a faster rate around the sun?
    - Summer Solstice
    - Winter Solstice
    - Autumnal Equinox
    - Vernal Equinox
  - Which one of the following planets has the largest oxygen content?
    - Jupiter
    - Mercury
    - Venus
    - Earth
  - The number of seats in Lok Sabha allotted to different States is determined on the basis of the State's:
    - population
    - size
    - resources
    - location
  - In the summer season the shortage of green fodder can be supplemented by growing:
    - teosinte
    - berseem
    - lucerne
    - oats
  - Which of the following is/are associated with the 'Turning of the Wheel of Law' in Buddhism?
    - Four Noble Truths
    - Eight-Fold Path
    - Non-violence
    - Great Renunciation
- Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

Codes:

- 1 alone
  - 1 and 2
  - 3 and 4
  - 3 alone
- Which one of the following is related with the horse latitudes?
    - Cyclone
    - Low atmospheric pressure
    - High atmospheric pressure
    - Movement of surface winds
  - Which one of the following planets contains the 'Great Red Spot'?
    - Saturn
    - Mars
    - Jupiter
    - Pluto
  - The Rajya Sabha cannot delay a Money Bill passed by the Lok Sabha beyond a period of:
    - a month
    - fourteen days
    - a week
    - six months
  - During a total solar eclipse there is most likely to be:
    - a decrease in the rate of photosynthesis
    - an increase in the rate of photosynthesis
    - a decrease in the rate of respiration
    - no effect on either photosynthesis or respiration
  - The division of society into seven classes in the Mauryan period is mentioned in:
    - Kautilya's Arthashastra
    - Ashokan edicts
    - the Puranas
    - the Indica of Megasthenes
  - Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):  
**Assertion (A):** Absolute humidity generally declines from the equator towards the poles.  
**Reason (R):** On a hot summer day air can hold much more moisture than it would on a cold winter day  
 In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?
    - Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
    - Both A and R are true but R is *not* a correct explanation of A
    - A is true but R is false
    - A is false but R is true
  - The Srikrishna Commission which has been wound up was enquiring into:
    - the hawala scandal
    - the destruction of the Babri Masjid
    - the communal riots at Bombay
    - the conspiracy aspect of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi
  - The concept of Integral Yoga was propounded by:
    - Ananda Coomaraswamy
    - Sri Aurobindo
    - Vinoba Bhawe
    - Vivekananda
  - The part of the flower associated with insect pollination is:

- (a) gynoecium (b) perianth  
(c) corolla (d) thalamus

21. In the Gupta inscriptions gold coins are referred to as:

- (a) suvarna (b) satamana  
(c) hiranya (d) dinara

22. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):

Assertion (A): The Mediterranean climate has rainy winters and dry summers.

Reason (R): The Mediterranean regions lie in the transition zone between the Trade Winds and the Westerlies.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false  
(d) A is false but R is true

23. What is the name of the launch vehicle for India's remote sensing satellite, IRS-IC?

- (a) PSLV (b) Molniya  
(c) Comumbia (d) French Guinea

24. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):

Assertion (A): India has a parliamentary system of government.

Reason (R): Indian Parliament is bicameral.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false  
(d) A is false but R is true

25. Leaf is modified into Pitcher in:

- (a) Nepenthes (b) Gall bladder  
(c) Bladder wort (d) Utricularia

26. A marble Cupid which stood unnoticed in a New York city mansion has now been identified as a long-lost work of:

- (a) Leonardo da Vinci (b) Michaelangelo  
(c) Raphael (d) Erasmus

27. Which one of the following represents the correct population-size of four mega cities of India in descending order?

- (a) Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras  
(b) Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi  
(c) Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi  
(d) Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Madras

28. Which one of the following cells is rechargeable?

- (a) Daniell cell (b) Leclanche cell  
(c) Lead cell (d) Volta cell

29. Article 356 of the Constitution of India often figures in news and its invocation has generated a lot of debate. It deals with:

- (a) corruption in public service  
(b) greater autonomy for States in financial matters  
(c) declaration of the President's rule in a State  
(d) inter-State dispute in the sharing of water

30. Which one of the following shows the correct sequence of oxygen transport in the body?

- (a) Trachea, blood, bronchioles, brain  
(b) Blood, trachea, bronchioles, brain  
(c) Trachea, bronchioles, blood, brain  
(d) Blood, bronchioles, trachea, brain

31. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer from the codes given below the lists:

List I	List II
A. Ashtadhyayi	1. Vedavyasa
B. Devi-Chandraguptam	2. Panini
C. Samrangana-Sutradhara	3. Vishakhadatta
D. Malavikagnimitram	4. Raja Bhoj
	5. Kalidasa

Codes:

- (a) A B C D  
1 2 3 4  
(b) A B C D  
2 3 1 5  
(c) A B C D  
3 2 4 5  
(d) A B C D  
2 3 4 5

32. Lee Kuan Yew is described as 'a political superman of his time, albeit in charge of a metropolis'. The metropolis implied here is:

- (a) Hanoi (b) Singapore  
(c) Hongkong (d) Ho Chi Minh city

33. Heating element of an electric heater is made up of:

- (a) Tungsten (b) Graphite  
(c) Chromium (d) Nichrome

34. At present the right to property in India is a:

- (a) political right (b) legal right  
(c) fundamental right (d) social right

35. Which one of the following animals has the blood anticoagulant in the alimentary system?

- (a) Neries (b) Leech  
(c) Snake (d) Octopus

36. Which one of the following was not a result of the Arab conquest of Sindh?

- (a) The Arabs took Indian artisans and workers to construct buildings in their country  
(b) The Arabs learnt Indian Astronomy and Mathematics  
(c) The Arabs took least interest in the introduction of Islam in India  
(d) The Arabs took Indian science and learning to western countries

37. Which one of the following is the name given to the main channel of the Ganga river joining the Bay of Bengal?

- (a) Ganga (b) Hooghly  
(c) Padma (d) Jumna

38. Dry sand appears bright while wet sand appears dark because of:

- (a) reflection (b) refraction  
(c) optical illusion (d) diffraction

39. Which one of the following is known as 'the Land of the Thunder Dragon'?

- (a) Nepal (b) Tibet  
(c) Bhutan (d) Myanmar

40. In elephants the tusks are:

- (a) incisors (b) molars  
(c) canines

- (d) enlarged cartilaginous bones
41. The Sangam classics are in:  
 (a) Tamil (b) Telugu  
 (c) Kannada (d) Malayalam
42. Which one of the following is the largest brackish water lake in India?  
 (a) Chilka (b) Panchbhadra  
 (c) Sambhar (d) Udaisagar
43. In an oil lamp, the oil rises up in the wick due to:  
 (a) capillary action  
 (b) atmospheric pressure  
 (c) viscosity of oil  
 (d) change in temperature
44. The Panchayati Raj System has been established in:  
 (a) all the States of India  
 (b) all the States and Union Territories of India  
 (c) all the States and Union Territories of India except Meghalaya, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Mizoram  
 (d) all the States and Union Territories of India except Jammu & Kashmir
45. Cycling of elements between living and non-living components of the biosphere is known as:  
 (a) Biological cycles (b) Biogeochemical cycles  
 (c) Biogeocoenosis (d) Geobiocoenosis
46. Which one of the following dynasties of early medieval India was justly famous for its system of village administration?  
 (a) The Chola (b) The Rashtrakuta  
 (c) The Chahamana (d) The Sena
47. Bailadila in Bastar district (M.P.) is known for its wealth of  
 (a) Bauxite (b) Copper  
 (c) Manganese (d) Iron ore
48. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):  
 Assertion (A) Mercury is used in clinical thermometer for measuring body temperatures.  
 Reason (R): Mercury shines and is easily observable.  
 In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?  
 (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
 (b) Both A and R are true but R is *not* a correct explanation of A  
 (c) A is true but R is false  
 (d) A is false but R is true
49. During the struggle for freedom the Ganesh festival was popularised by:  
 (a) M.G. Ranade (b) G.K. Gokhale  
 (c) B.G. Tilak (d) V.D. Savarkar
50. The radiant energy which is stored by photosynthetic activity in the form of organic substances is termed as:  
 (a) Primary productivity  
 (b) Gross primary productivity  
 (c) Net primary productivity  
 (d) Net community productivity
51. Which part of India was well known for Kalpasutra paintings during the period from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries?  
 (a) Northern India (b) Southern India  
 (c) Western India (d) Eastern India
52. The correct sequence of States in the descending order

of their coal deposits is:

- (a) West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar  
 (b) Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal  
 (c) Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh  
 (d) West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh
53. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):  
 Assertion (A): The shape of soap bubble is spherical.  
 Reason (R): The bubble has a maximum surface area.  
 In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?  
 (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
 (b) Both A and R are true but R is *not* a correct explanation of A  
 (c) A is true but R is false  
 (d) A is false but R is true
54. Of the four continents mentioned below the one that has a large number of members in the United Nations but no permanent seat in the Security Council, is:  
 (a) Africa (b) Asia  
 (c) Australia (d) North America
55. Acid rain contains high levels of:  
 (a) oxalic acid  
 (b) acetic acid  
 (c) sulphuric and nitric acids  
 (d) carbolic acid
56. The greatest achievement of Alauddin Khilji was his:  
 (a) invasion of South India  
 (b) measures to improve the standard of living  
 (c) revenue system and control of inflation  
 (d) contribution to art
57. When compared to other countries in the world India is the largest producer and consumer of:  
 (a) wheat (b) pulses  
 (c) tea (d) rice
58. Which one of the following flavouring agents used in food was the subject of controversy recently?  
 (a) Dextrins  
 (b) Monosodium glutamate  
 (c) Sodium benzoate (d) Ascorbic acid
59. Recently a series of nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean was conducted by:  
 (a) USA (b) Russia  
 (c) France (d) Japan
60. "Haemophilia" is a disease in which:  
 (a) the eosinophil number drastically increases  
 (b) the haemoglobin content rises  
 (c) the blood loses the property to clot outside the body after an injury  
 (d) respiratory disorder takes place
61. Who among the following was an active participant in the Quit India Movement (1942)?  
 (a) Junius Jayawardane, former President of Sri Lanka  
 (b) Manmohan Adhikari, former Prime Minister of Nepal  
 (c) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, former President of Bangladesh  
 (d) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan
62. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

**List I**  
(Cities)

- A. Bangalore  
B. Bhilai  
C. Korba  
D. Vishakhapatnam

**List II**  
(Industries)

1. Ship building  
2. Iron and Steel  
3. Heavy engineering  
4. Aircraft  
5. Aluminium

**Codes:**

- (a) A B C D  
4 2 1 5  
(b) A B C D  
3 2 5 1  
(c) A B C D  
4 3 1 2  
(d) A B C D  
3 1 4 2

63. According to scientists, the phenomena that provides the basis for stone idols 'drinking milk' is the:

- (a) white colour of the milk  
(b) white colour of the marble  
(c) viscosity of milk  
(d) surface tension of liquids

64. Which one of the following is *not* related to the continuing turmoil in Bosnia?

- (a) Serbs (b) Muslims  
(c) Jews (d) Croats

65. Ionizing radiations in the atmosphere induce chromosomal aberrations resulting in genetic defects which may lead to:

- (a) AIDS (b) Asthma  
(c) Cancer (d) Tuberculosis

66. The architectural features of Taj Mahal have resemblance to those of:

- (a) The Jumma Masjid at Delhi  
(b) The Mecca Masjid at Hyderabad  
(c) Humayun's Tomb at Delhi  
(d) Gol Gumbaz at Bijapur

67. Which one of the following southern States of India does *not* have a modern steel plant?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka  
(c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu

68. The radiation that is used in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is:

- (a) of the radio frequency region  
(b) x-rays  
(c) gamma rays  
(d) in the infra-red range

69. Kalinga Prize is awarded for:

- (a) popularisation of science  
(b) contribution to Oriya literature  
(c) significant work in the field of protection of the environment  
(d) work oriented towards eradication of child labour

70. In certain States of India, especially Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the use of khesari pulse for a long time led to arthritis and paralysis of the legs, because it:

- (a) is devoid of protein  
(b) lacks calcium  
(c) contains (N.Y.L. glutomyle) amino-propion-nitrite  
(d) contains higher quantity of iron

71. The capital of the Hoysalas was:

- (a) Warangal (b) Madurai  
(c) Dwarasamudra (d) Badami

72. Which one of the following cities of Uttar Pradesh is most ideally located for the development of iron and steel industry?

- (a) Agra (b) Kanpur  
(c) Lucknow (d) Mirzapur

73. Given below are two statements, one labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R):

**Assertion (A):** A mixture of ethyl alcohol and water can be completely separated into its components

**Reason (R):** Water boils at 100°C and ethyl alcohol at 80°C.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true but R is *not* a correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false  
(d) A is false but R is true

74. The Supreme Court gave its interpretation of 'Hindutva' in the:

- (a) Kesavananda Bharati case  
(b) Minerva Mill's case  
(c) Manohar Joshi case  
(d) Babri Masjid case

75. Vitamin 'A', 'E' and 'C' are present in abundance in:

- (a) Radish (b) Turnip  
(c) Carrot (d) Beet root

76. The upheaval of 1857 was first described as the war of independence by:

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
(c) V.D. Savarkar (d) Lala Lajpat Rai

77. The sea port handling the biggest cargo traffic in India is:

- (a) Bombay (b) Calcutta  
(c) Madras (d) Vishakhapatnam

78. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

- | List I             | List II         |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| A. Copper Sulphate | 1. Preservative |
| B. Sulphur Dioxide | 2. Fungicide    |
| C. Sodium Benzoate | 3. Fertilizer   |
| D. Superphosphate  | 4. Pollutant    |

**Codes:**

- (a) A B C D  
1 2 4 3  
(b) A B C D  
2 4 1 3  
(c) A B C D  
2 4 3 1  
(d) A B C D  
1 2 3 4

79. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) National Conference : Meghalaya  
(b) Revolutionary Socialist Party : Andhra Pradesh  
(c) Peasants and Workers Party : Maharashtra  
(d) Pattali Makkal Katchi : Karnataka

80. The deficiency of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> in human beings causes

- (a) Leucopenia (b) Diphtheria  
(c) Beri-Beri (d) Poliomyelitis

81. The East India Company acquired in 1668 the island

of Bombay from:

- (a) Spain (b) Holland  
(c) Portugal (d) France

82. Which one of the following sea routes handles the biggest cargo traffic for India?

- (a) Cape Horn route  
(b) Cape of Good Hope route  
(c) Singapore route  
(d) Suez route

83. Which one of the following would give the highest energy per gram?

- (a) Glucose (b) Proteins  
(c) Fats (d) Sucrose

84. The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for 1993 (awarded in 1995) was made to:

- (a) Mother Teresa (b) Nelson Mandela  
(c) Ms Aung San Suu Kyi  
(d) Archbishop Desmond Tutu

85. An important herb, found in the forests of Northern Kashmir, Dehradun, Himachal Pradesh and now in cultivation in many other States of India, widely used in cough, sore-throat and bronchitis is:

- (a) Emblica (b) Liquorice  
(c) Worm seed (d) Chhatim

### ANSWERS

1. (b)
2. (b) Diameter of the earth is about 12,000 km.
3. (c) Chromosphere, Corona, Photosphere.
4. (d) 5. (a)
6. (d) *Hindu World* by Benjamin Walker, Vol. II, Page 548.
7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (c) 14. (b)
15. (a) 16. (d) 17. (a) 18. (c)
19. (b) 20. (a) 21. (a) 22. (a)
23. (b) 24. (b) 25. (d) 26. (b)
27. (a) 28. (b) 29. (c) 30. (c)
31. (d) 32. (b) 33. (d) 34. (b)
35. (b) 36. (c) 37. (c) 38. (c)
39. (c) 40. (d) 41. (a) 42. (c)
43. (a) 44. (c)
45. (b) *Britannica*, 1991, Vol. 2, P. 221.
46. (a) 47. (c) 48. (a) 49. (c)
50. (b) 51. (c) *Britannica*, 1991, Vol. 27, page 786.
52. (d) 53. (b) 54. (a) 55. (c)
56. (c) 57. (c) 58. (b) 59. (c)
60. (c) 61. (c) *Britannica*, 1991, Vol. 9, page 901.
62. (b) 63. (d) 64. (c) 65. (c)
66. (c) 67. (c) 68. (d) 69. (a)
70. (c) 71. (c) also called Halebid.
72. (d) 73. (d) 74. (c) 75. (c)
76. (c) 77. (a) 78. (b) 79. (c)
80. (c) 81. (c) 82. (d) 83. (a)
84. (c) 85. (a)

### Corrections

Oct '96 issue, Pages 256-259.

The answers to questions 14, 34, 79 and 83 are (d) only, (d), (c) and (a) respectively.

The mistakes are regretted.

—Editor.

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# TEST OF REASONING—1

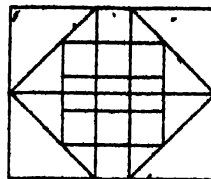
Find out the missing numbers for the series of numbers given below:

1. 96, 90, ...; 60; 36  
(a) 80 (b) 82 (c) 84 (d) 78  
(e) None of these
2. 5, 11, 24; 51, ...  
(a) 59 (b) 102 (c) 104 (d) 106  
(e) None of these
3. 2, ...; 3; 9; 4; 12  
(a) 6 (b) 5 (c) 4 (d) 8  
(e) None of these
4. 3; 6; 7; 14, 15; ...; 31  
(a) 19 (b) 22 (c) 30 (d) 35  
(e) None of these
5. 14, 8; 21; 16, ...; 24  
(a) 20 (b) 28 (c) 22 (d) 32  
(e) None of these
6. 1; 1; 4; 8, 9; 27;  
(a) 18 (b) 21 (c) 16 (d) 23  
(e) None of these
7. 5; 9; 21; 57; ...  
(a) 165 (b) 114 (c) 99 (d) 135  
(e) None of these
8. 4; 5; 9, ...; 34; 59  
(a) 21 (b) 18 (c) 16 (d) 24  
(e) None of these
9. How many prime numbers are there between 10 and 30?  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7  
(e) None of these
10. How many numbers between 20 and 70 are divisible by 3?  
(a) 19 (b) 18 (c) 16 (d) 17  
(e) None of these

Find the odd-man out:

11. (a) 36 : 216 (b) 1 : 1 (c) 9 : 36  
(d) 49 : 343 (e) 16 : 64
12. (a) 56 : 63 (b) 16 : 18 (c) 40 : 45  
(d) 96 : 108 (e) 86 : 99
13. (a) 7 : 18 (b) 11 : 36 (c) 13 : 42  
(d) 3 : 2 (e) 9 : 26
14. (a) 25 : 31 (b) 16 : 33 (c) 21 : 43  
(d) 29 : 59 (e) 6 : 15

Qs. 15 to 17 are based on the figure given below:



15. How many squares are there in the figure?  
(a) 17 (b) 18 (c) 19 (d) 20 (e) None
16. Count the number of triangles in the figure  
(a) 14 (b) 18 (c) 16 (d) 20 (e) None
17. How many straight lines (minimum number) are needed to draw this figure?  
(a) 16 (b) 17 (c) 18 (d) 19 (e) None

Find the odd-man out:

18. (a) GEBH (b) QOIR (c) JHDK  
(d) USPV (e) BZWC
19. (a) VXTZ (b) LJNP (c) HJFI  
(d) DFBH (e) KMIO
20. (a) KP (b) DW (c) GT  
(d) LO (e) IS
21. (a) FCED (b) MILK (c) WTUV  
(d) TQSR (e) BYAZ

If all the letters from A to Z were written in reverse order:

22. Which letter would be 12th from the beginning if all the vowels were dropped? (count from your left)  
(a) M (b) N (c) P (d) Q (e) None
23. Which letter would be exactly in the middle of 15th letter from your left and 14th letter from your right?  
(a) I (b) M (c) N (d) P (e) None

Qs. 24 and 25 are based on the letters used in the word: PEDESTRIAN

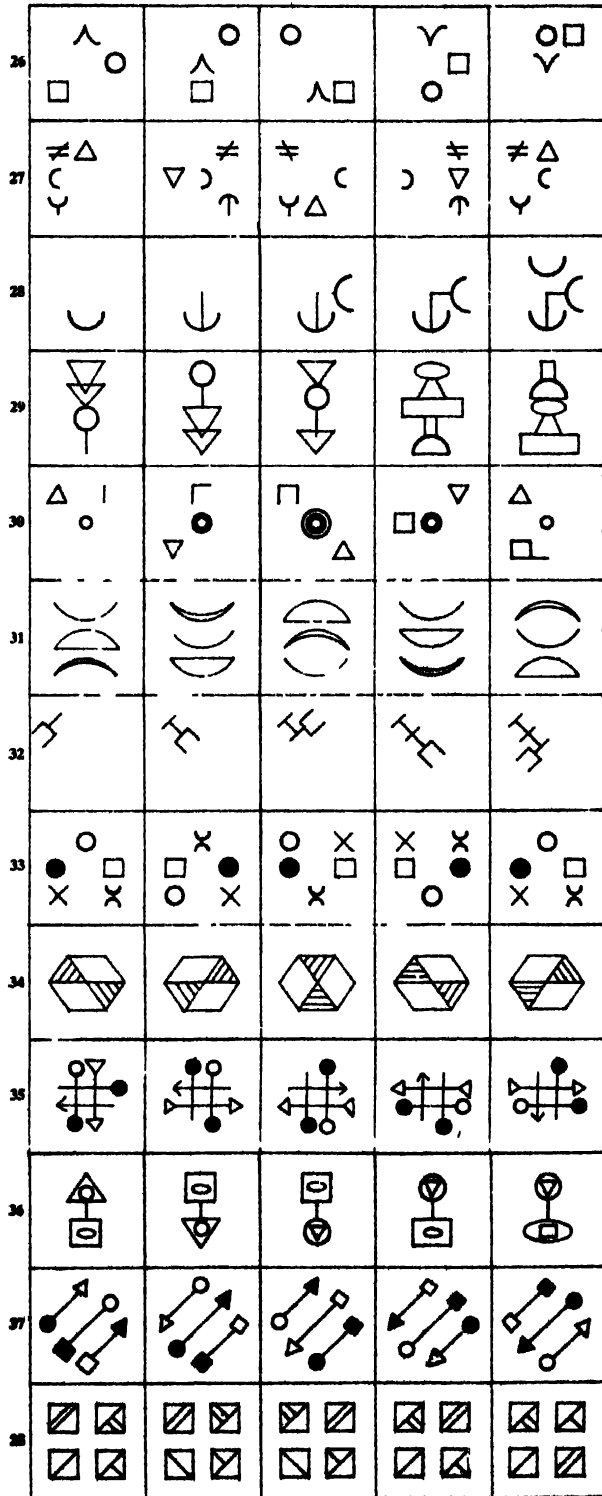
24. How many sets of two letters each have as many letters between them as they have in the alphabetical order?  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6  
(e) None of these
25. If the letters used in the word were to be written in alphabetical order (if a letter is repeated, it is to be written once only) which letter would be exactly in the middle of I and T?  
(a) N (b) P (c) R (d) S  
(e) None of these



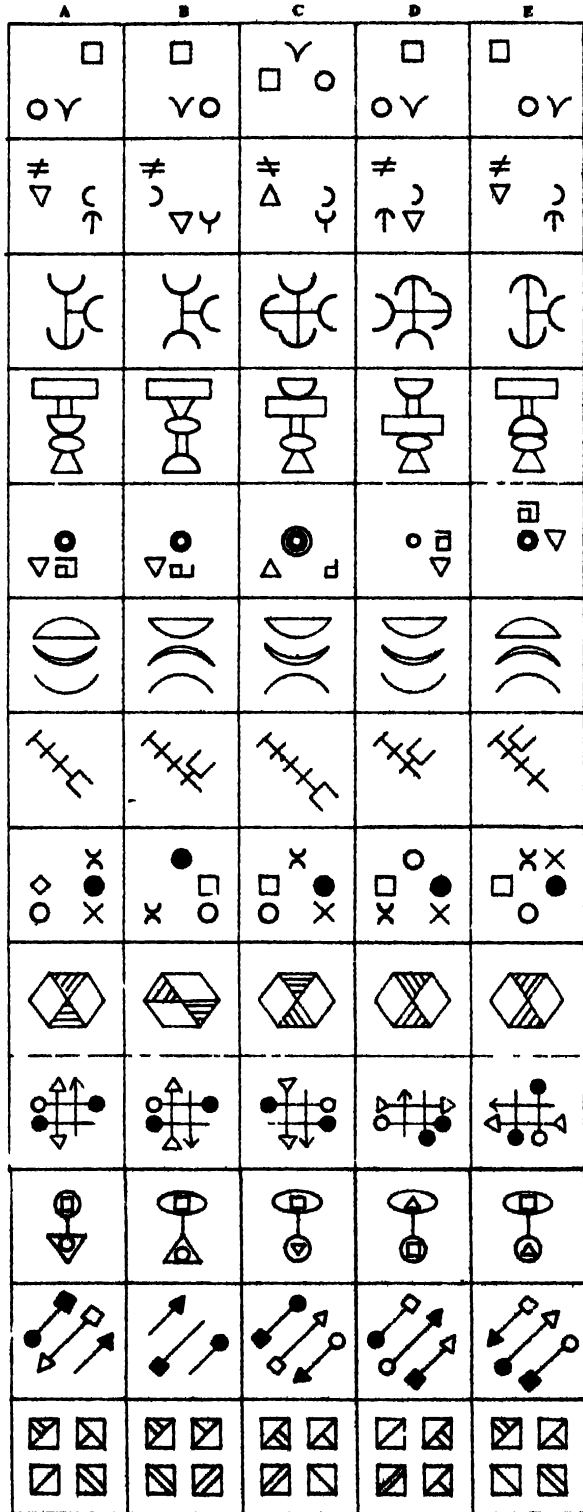
# NON-VERBAL SERIES

Given below are two sets of figures, the Problem Figures and the Answer Figures marked A, B, C, D and E. You have to find out which of the Answer Figures would fit in as next figure for the series of Problem Figures.

PROBLEM FIGURES

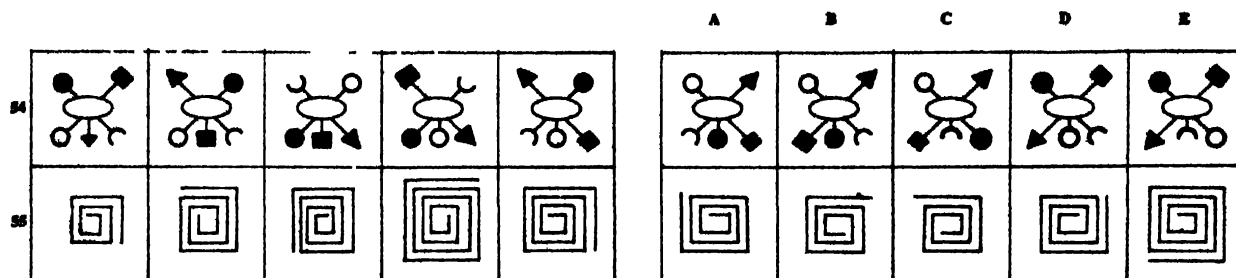


ANSWER FIGURES

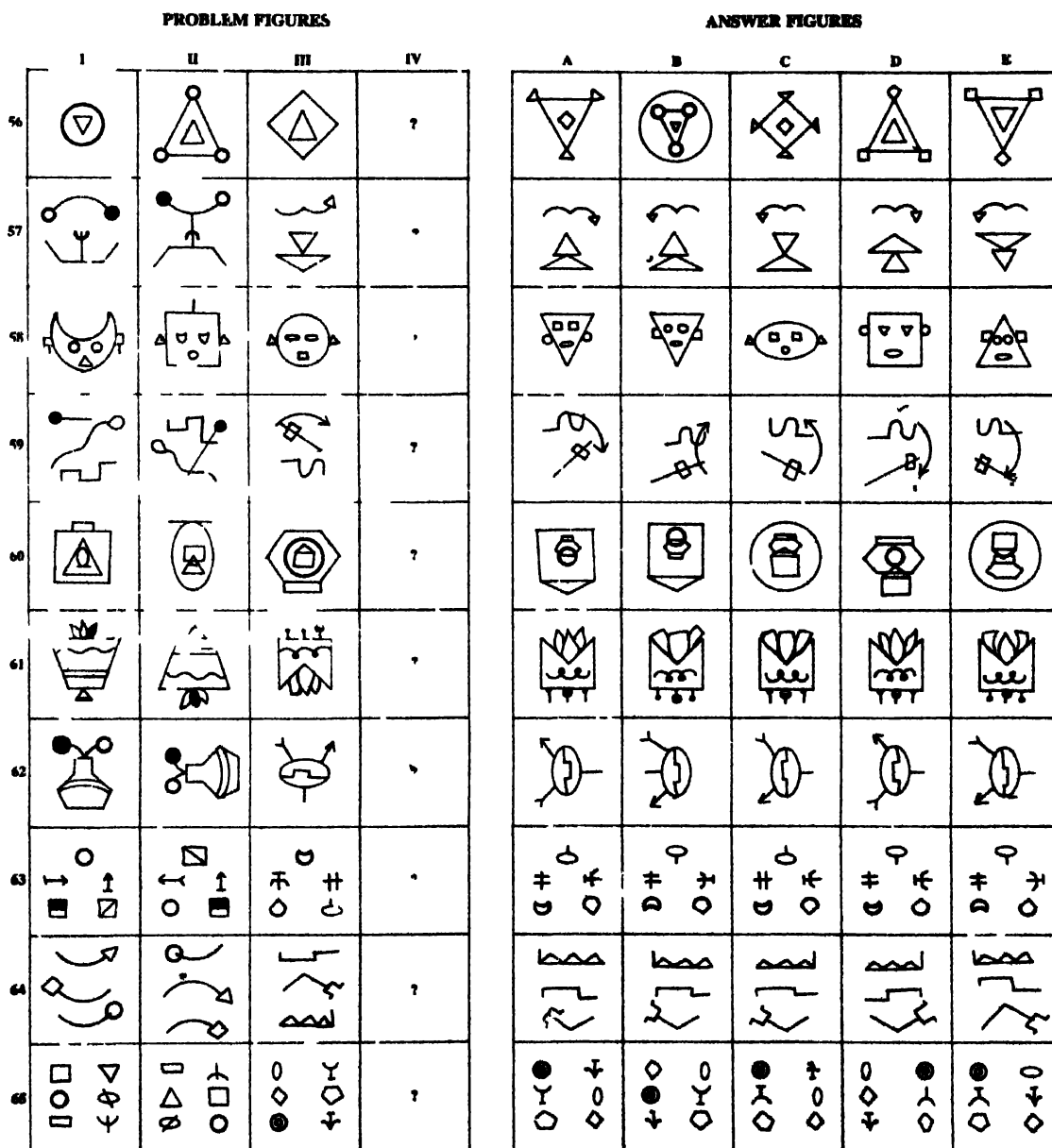


39				
40				
41				
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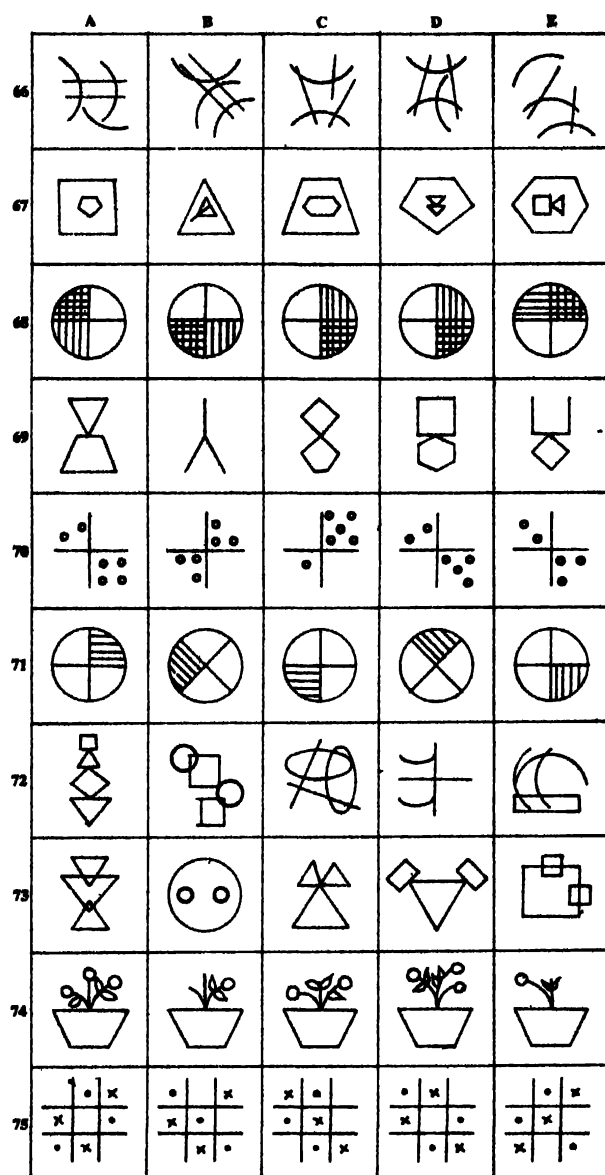
A	B	C	D	E



In questions 56 to 65, figures I and II have a certain relationship. Find out from A, B, C, D and E the figure that has similar relationship with Problem Figure III.



Find the odd-man out:



### ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- (d) Go on deducting 6, 12, 18, 24... from numbers.
- (d) The series has  $(5 \times 2) + 1 = 11$ ;  $(11 \times 2) + 2 = 24$ ;  $(24 \times 2) + 3 = \dots$
- (a) There are two series, 2; 3; 4 and 6; 9; 12.
- (c) The series is  $3 \times 2 = 6$ ;  $6 + 1 = 7$ ;  $7 \times 2 = 14$ ;  $14 + 1 = 15$ ;  $15 \times 2 = 30$ ;  $30 + 1 = \dots$
- (b) Again there are two series, 14; 21; 28 (multiples of 7) and 8; 16; 24...
- (c) The series is  $1^2, 1^3; 2^2, 2^3; 3^2, 3^3 \dots$
- (a) Each next number is  $(n \times 3) - 6$  of the preceding number.

- (b) Go on adding  $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, 4^2 \dots$  to numbers respectively.
- (c) 10. (d)
- (c) the relationship is  $x^2 : x^3$ .
- (e) All the other numbers have 8 : 9 ratio.
- (b) the second number is  $(\times 4) - 10$  of the first.
- (e) The second number in all the others is double + 1 of the first.
- (d) 16. (b) 17 (b) 18. (c)
- (b) 20. (c) 21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (b)
- (d) DE, ED; ST, DI; PI; SN (Count towards right and left)
- (a) ADEINPRST

For answering questions 26 to 55, the following guidelines may prove helpful

- Study each figure in the question separately as well as in relationship with other figures.
  - The different figures may move at a different pace and may change size or direction during the movement. The figures may reverse their position, may tilt or revolve during their movement (Examples 26, where the black dot covers one step extra with each movement, 27, 33, 42 etc.)
  - The same figures in the question may interchange positions according to a definite pattern (Examples 29, 33, 48, 53)
  - Something may be added or dropped in each next step. (Examples 28; 30, 40; 44, 45; 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 55 etc.)
  - The movement of individual figures may be clockwise, anti-clockwise, up and down, right and left, vice versa or along certain points.
- B 27 F 28. A 29 F 30. B
  - D 32. A 33. C 34 C 35 B
  - E 37. C 38. B 39 A 40 B
  - E 42. C 43 E 44 A 45 D
  - A 47. D 48 B 49 D 50 A
  - D 52. B 53. E 54 A 55 C
  - E 57. B 58. B 59 D 60 A
  - C 62. E 63 D 64 B 65. C
  - C. All the other figures have three curves and two straight lines, here the position is reversed.
  - C. In all the figures, the inner figure has one line more than the outer figure. This one has two lines more.
  - B The pattern is wrong.
  - D The figure at the bottom should have only one side more than the upper figure. This one has two more.
  - E. In all the others, the total of dots is six.
  - D. The pattern is wrong.
  - E. In all the others, the sets of two figures each are similar.
  - D. The three figures ought to have the same shape, the size may be different.
  - A. In all the others, the leaves are one more in number as compared to the fruit.
  - C. There ought to be one cross and one dot horizontally and vertically.

# TEST OF REASONING—II

In questions 1 to 8, four out of five given words have something in common while one is different. You have to find out the word that does not belong to the group:

1. (a) Magistrate (b) Judge (c) Advocate  
(d) Juries (e) Chief Justice
2. (a) Tirupathi (b) Badrinath (c) Sarnath  
(d) Somnath (e) Golkunda
3. (a) fortnight (b) season (c) month  
(d) week (e) year
4. (a) rose (b) lotus (c) lily  
(d) marigold (e) tulip
5. (a) cloud (b) meteor (c) rainbow  
(d) lightning (e) tide
6. (a) camel (b) sheep (c) goat  
(d) dog (e) buffalo
7. (a) knight (b) minister (c) bishop  
(d) queen (e) king
8. (a) banana (b) orange (c) lemon  
(d) grapefruit (e) lime

In questions 9 to 16, a pair of words is given having a definite relationship. Select from (a), (b), (c) and (d) the pair which expresses the relationship that is most similar to the relationship of the items given in question:

9. chocolate : sugar  
(a) egg : yolk (b) building : cement  
(c) road : traffic (d) milk : cream
10. petroleum : kerosene  
(a) wood : paper (b) sugar : jaggery  
(c) glass : crockery (d) ball : bat
11. carpenter : wood  
(a) farmer : crops (b) doctor : disease  
(c) judge : court (d) cobbler : leather
12. knife : chopper  
(a) quilt : blanket (b) scissors : cloth  
(c) swim : float (d) walking : fitness
13. clay : brick  
(a) metal : mine (b) coal : diamond  
(c) iron : nail (d) statue : temple
14. wordsworth : literature  
(a) Fida Hussain : art (b) Pt Ravi Shankar : Sarod  
(c) Dhyan Chand : football (d) Tenzing : swimming
15. war : peace  
(a) treaty : agreement (b) abominable : hateful  
(c) exhilarated : depressed (d) regard : honour
16. yen : dinar  
(a) money : finance (b) kathak : manipuri  
(c) bank : savings (d) sword : cut

Qs. 17 to 22. Each question below has three items. Match them with (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) on the basis of similar relationship among items.

17. Sri Lanka : Pakistan : India  
(a) Lata : Aruna Asafali : Nargis
18. India : Korea : Iran

(b) M.P. : Gujarat : Uttar Pradesh

19. India : Maharashtra : Asia  
(c) J.C. Bose : Bhabha : Raman
20. Rafi : Mukesh : Kishore  
(d) P.T. Usha : Kerala : races
21. Gavaskar : Bhimsen Joshi : Tagore  
(e) Kashmir : Dal : Shrinagar
22. Ghalib : poetry : Delhi  
(f) Canada : Mexico : Alaska

Qs. 23 to 27. In the following questions, the word **INSULT** has been coded in five different ways. The same codes have been used for the word **FRIDAY** but not in the same order. Match the questions with (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) on the basis of similar codes:

INSULT	FRIDAY
23. SNITLU	(a) GSJEBZ
24. TILNUS	(b) XZCHQE
25. JOTVMU	(c) YFARDI
26. HORVKU	(d) IRFYAD
27. SKTRMH	(e) ESHEZZ

28. 'A' had to board a passenger train which started from his city at 7 A.M. He got late somehow and reached the station at 7.10 A.M. There was a parallel road to the train track and he knew that after every 10 kms there is a small station where the train halts for 2 mts. If the speed of the train is 50 km per hour and 'A' picks up a speed of 60 km. p.h., at what time would he be able to board the train?

- (a) 7.30 A.M. (b) 7.40 A.M. (c) 7.45 A.M.  
(d) 7.52 A.M. (e) None of these

Rahul and Meeta have their birthdays on 29th Oct and 5th July respectively and the total of their age in years is 11.

After two years the ratio in their ages would be 3 : 2. The wedding anniversary of their parents is exactly in the middle of their birthdays.

29. If Rahul's birthday fell on Saturday, on which day did his little sister celebrate her birthday?

- (a) Monday (b) Tuesday (c) Thursday  
(d) Friday (e) Sunday

30. On which date is their parents' wedding anniversary?

- (a) 1st Sept (b) 3rd Sept (c) 29th Aug  
(d) 30th Aug (e) 31st Aug

31. On which day the same year did the parents celebrate their wedding anniversary?

- (a) Monday (b) Tuesday (c) Sunday  
(d) Thursday (e) Friday

32. How old is Rahul at present? (In years)

- (a) 6 yrs (b) 7 yrs (c) 8 yrs  
(d) 9 yrs (e) 10 yrs

Qs. 33 and 34 are based on the following information:

Six villages A, B, C, D, E and F are situated as follows:

E is 1 km to the east of C.

F is 1 km to the west of B.

C is 4 km to the south of F.

A is 3 km to the east of D.

D is 3 km. to the south of B.

33. Which three villages are in a line?

- (a) ECF (b) ADB (c) BDE  
(d) FDB (e) None of these

34. Which of the two villages are the farthest?

- (a) F and E (b) B and C (c) A and F  
(d) A and B (e) None of these

Six friends A, B, C, D, E and F are sitting round a table and playing cards.

A is facing F

E is to the right of B

C is neither near F nor facing E

35. A is between?

- (a) B & C (b) B & D (c) D & E  
(d) B & E (e) C & E

36. Whom is B facing?

- (a) A (b) C (c) D (d) E (e) F

37. Which of the following statement is correct?

- (a) B is between D and F (b) D is facing B  
(c) C is to the right of D  
(d) The given facts are insufficient to establish the positions  
(e) C is between A and D.

Read the information given below and answer the questions that follow:

Five persons Manoj, Naresh, Ravi, Sandeep and Varun live in Agra, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Delhi and Indore.

Ravi does not live in Delhi or Bhopal.

Sandeep and Manoj do not stay at Indore or Chandigarh.

Naresh and Ravi are not in Agra.

Varun does not live in Bhopal or Agra.

Naresh and Ravi are not at Chandigarh.

Manoj and Naresh are not in Delhi.

38. Who lives in Indore?

- (a) Manoj (b) Naresh (c) Ravi  
(d) Sandeep (e) Varun

39. The person living in Delhi is...

- (a) Manoj (b) Naresh (c) Ravi  
(d) Sandeep (e) Varun

40. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Manoj does not stay at Bhopal  
(b) Varun does not stay at Chandigarh  
(c) Ravi lives in Indore  
(d) Sandeep does not live in Agra  
(e) Naresh lives in Bhopal

## SYLLOGISMS

In each question below are given two statements followed by four conclusions numbered I, II, III and IV. You have to take everything given in the statement to be true although it may seem at variance with commonly accepted facts. Then decide which of the conclusions follow from the statements. Tick mark the right answer from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

Statements:

41. 1. All tyres are horns.  
2. All horns are seats.

Conclusions:

- I. All horns are tyres.  
II. All seats are tyres.  
III. All tyres are seats  
IV. Only those seats are horns which are not tyres.  
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statements:

42. 1. Some medicines are poisons.  
2. All poisons are liquids.

Conclusions:

- I. Some medicines are liquids.  
II. All liquids are poisons.  
III. Some medicines are not poisons.  
IV. Some liquids are not poisons  
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only III and IV follow.  
(c) Either II or IV follows. (d) Only II and IV follow.  
(e) Only I and III follow.

Statements:

43. 1. Some windows are doors.  
2. Some doors are tables

Conclusions:

- I. Some tables are windows.  
II. Every table is either a door or a window.  
III. Some doors are not windows.  
IV. No table is a window.  
(a) Either I or IV follows. (b) Only I and III follow.  
(c) Either II or III follows. (d) None follows.  
(e) All the four follow.

Statements:

44. 1. All bats are shuttlecocks.  
2. Some shuttlecocks are nets

Conclusions:

- I. No net is a bat.  
II. All shuttlecocks are bats.  
III. Some bats are nets.  
IV. Every shuttlecock is either bat or net.  
(a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Either III or IV follows. (d) Either I or III follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statements:

45. 1. Trees are higher than mountains but lower than rivers.  
2. Clouds are higher than trees but lower than ocean.

Conclusions:

- I. Oceans are the highest.  
II. Oceans are higher than rivers.  
III. Clouds are lower than rivers.  
IV. Mountains are higher than oceans.  
(a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only IV follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statements:

46. 1. All books are card-boards  
2. All pencils are card-boards.

Conclusions:

- I. Some card-boards are books as well as pencils.  
II. Every card-board is either a book or a pencil.  
III. No card-board is book as well as pencil.

- IV. Some card-boards are neither book nor pencil.  
 (a) Either I or III follows. (b) Either III or IV follows.  
 (c) Either I or II follows. (d) All the four follow.  
 (e) None follows.

Statements:

47. 1. Some cities are villages.  
 2. Some districts are villages.

Conclusions:

- I. Some cities are not villages.  
 II. Some districts are not villages.  
 III. Every village is either city or district.  
 IV. Every village is a city as well as district.  
 (a) Only I and III follow. (b) Only I and II follow.  
 (c) Only II and III follow. (d) Only III and IV follow.  
 (e) Only I and IV follow.

Statements:

48. 1. All games are sports.  
 2. Some dances are sports.

Conclusions:

- I. All sports are games.  
 II. Some sports are dances as well as games.  
 III. Some sports are neither dances nor games.  
 IV. No sport is dance as well as game.  
 (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Either I or III follows.  
 (c) Either III or IV follows. (d) Either II or IV follows.  
 (e) None follows.

In each question below is given a statement followed by three assumptions numbered I, II and III. An assumption is something supposed, assumed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions are implicit in the statement. Then decide which of the answers from (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) is the correct answer.

Statement:

49. In most of the government hospitals either the equipment to carry out some of the basic tests are missing or are not in working order.

Assumptions:

- I. The equipments in private hospitals are better maintained.  
 II. The staff of the government hospital is rather careless where the purchase of equipments and their maintenance is concerned.  
 III. Government doctors do not need any equipment for basic tests.  
 (a) Only I and II are implicit. (b) Only III is implicit.  
 (c) Either I or III is implicit. (d) All are implicit.  
 (e) None is implicit.

Statement:

50. Most of the people today have become extremely fitness conscious and calorie careful.

Assumptions:

- I. The modern generation is much more fit and healthy as compared to our ancestors.  
 II. In old days, people took health quite casually.  
 III. The people who are fitness and calorie conscious are healthier than those who are not.  
 (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either II or I is implicit.  
 (e) None is implicit.

Statement:

51. The Nobel Prize for chemistry would be shared by three persons.

Assumptions:

- I. The three were working together as a team.  
 II. They were working individually but their work had the same weightage.  
 III. The three belonged to different nations and the Nobel Prize Committee wanted to oblige all the three nations.  
 (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.  
 (e) All the three are implicit.

Statement:

52. The Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is planning to demolish and rebuild three of its hotels in the capital by the year 2000.

Assumptions:

- I. ITDC is going to exhaust all the funds on these three hotels only.  
 II. These three hotels are outdated hence they don't attract tourists.  
 III. Till the hotels are rebuilt, the ITDC would provide tents to the tourists.  
 (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit. (d) Either I or II is implicit.  
 (e) Either II or III is implicit.

Statement:

53. Malaria claimed many lives in Rajasthan this year.

Assumptions:

- I. There is a dearth of medicines in the State.  
 II. When patients go to the doctors they are too ill to be treated.  
 III. There is no treatment for this disease.  
 (a) Only I is implicit.  
 (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Either II or III is implicit.  
 (e) Any one of the three is implicit.

Statement:

54. More and more youngmen are falling victims to drug addiction although they know the consequences.

Assumptions:

- I. These young persons lack will-power.  
 II. They give up drugs as soon as they get old.  
 III. Young women totally abstain from drugs.  
 (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Either I or II is implicit.  
 (e) Either II or III is implicit.

Statement:

55. In some of the constituencies, the voters have exercised their franchise in the shadow of pressure and terror.

Assumptions:

- I. The security arrangements were not upto the mark.  
 II. The candidates contesting for elections had connections with underworld dons.  
 III. The voters were aware of the power of the candidates and their gang.  
 (a) Only I and II are implicit.  
 (b) Only II and III are implicit.  
 (c) Only III is implicit.  
 (d) Either I or III is implicit.  
 (e) All are implicit.

Statement:

56. The patients of hypertension are prescribed sedatives



and advised to reduce the intake of salt and fats.

**Assumptions:**

- I. Sedatives soothe nerves and remove stress.
- II. Person who take too much fried food and salt in excess, always fall a prey to hypertension.
- III. Doctors do not know any other proper treatment for hypertension.

- (a) Only I is implicit. (b) Only II is implicit.  
(c) Only III is implicit. (d) None is implicit.  
(e) All the three are implicit.

*Each of the following questions has a question and two statements marked I and II. You have to decide whether the data provided in the statements is sufficient to answer the question. Read both the statements carefully and mark your answer:*

- (a) if the data given in statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question while the data given in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question.  
(b) if the data given in statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question while the data given in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question.  
(c) if either the data provided in statement I alone or II alone is sufficient to answer the question.  
(d) if the data provided in both the statements are not sufficient to answer the question.  
(e) if the data given in both the statements are needed to answer the question.

57. Why are M.P.s and M.L.A.s elected for a period of five years?

- I. Five years is a good period to buy properties, make investments and accumulate bank balance that may last for generations.
- II. Half the decade is enough to give a chance to the elected members to prove their efficiency in managing the State affairs.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

58. How far is Meena's office from her home?

- I. It takes Meena 15 minutes to reach her office from her home.
- II. Meena is a fast walker and maintains a regular speed of 5 km per hour.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

59. What is wrong with Mr Shrivastav?

- I. His personal physician has advised him to go to the Cancer Hospital of Bombay.
- II. There is no cancer hospital in the town where Mr Shrivastav lives.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

60. Why do schools have uniforms for children?

- I. If all the children wear the same type of clothes it would add to identity of the school and there would be no distinction between the rich and the not so well to do class.
- II. Children look more smart in uniform as compared to their other clothes.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

61. Where is the company going to open its new office?

- I. The executives are looking for a place in the heart of the city where the area buzzes with business.
- II. No place is available for new offices in the heart of the over-crowded city.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

62. When are Ramesh and Ritu getting married?

- I. They propose to get married after this Christmas.
- II. They want to get married before this New Year Eve.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

63. Who is going to be the next boss after the retirement of Mr David?

- I. Mr Ahmed is the seniormost person in the department.
- II. There is a tradition of promoting the seniormost person to the highest post.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

64. How many persons were killed when a part of the train fell into the flooded river?

- I. The last compartment, carrying 39 passengers fell into the river and only four persons could be saved.
- II. The divers have taken out 27 bodies and are still searching for the remaining eight.

- (a) ☐ (b) ☐ (c) ☐ (d) ☐ (e) ☐

*In each question below is given a statement followed by three Courses of Action numbered I, II and III. A course of action is a step or administrative decision to be taken for improvement, follow-up or further action in regard to the problem, policy etc. on the basis of the information given in the statement. You have to assume everything in the statement to be true, then decide which of the three suggested courses of action logically follow for pursuing*

**Statement:**

65. Number of dissidents in a political party is constantly on increase and some of the members are threatening to join the rival party.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. The party leader should look into the cause of discontentment and should try to remove it.
- II. All such members should be expelled from the party.
- III. The working of the party should be handed over to these dissidents.

- (a) Only I follows. (b) Only II follows.  
(c) Only III follows. (d) Either I or III follows.  
(e) None follows.

**Statement:**

66. There is a great agitation in the city because of the death of a youngman in the police lock-up.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. The staff responsible for such incident must be suspended without delay.
- II. A probe should be ordered into the matter.
- III. Proper compensation should be paid to the family of the deceased.

- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Only I and III follow. (d) None follows.  
(e) All the three follow.

**Statement:**

67. The sales persons of company X are unable to hit the targets set for them in spite of best efforts.

**Courses of Action:**

- I. The Company should introduce some sales promotion schemes.
- II. The Company should invest a good amount on advertisements.
- III. The products should be compared with rival products and should be made as good quality-

wise as them it not better.

- (a) Only I and III follow. (b) Only I and II follow.  
(c) All the three follow. (d) Either II or III follows.  
(e) Only II and III follow.

Statement:

68. The involvement of political parties in the election of college unions creates a lot of problems.

Courses of Action:

- I. College Unions should be banned.
  - II. Leadership among students should be discouraged.
  - III. There should be strict security arrangements in college campus.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Only I and III follow (d) All the three follow.  
(e) None follows.

Statement:

69. People living in rural areas still believe in a big family.

Courses of Action:

- I. They should be forced to undergo operations and limit their family.
  - II. They should be told about the advantages of small family with the help of video-cassettes and other programmes.
  - III. Health care mobile units should go there regularly and implement the family welfare programme.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Only III follows. (d) Only I follows.  
(e) None follows.

Statement:

70. Mini buses are responsible for the maximum number of road accidents.

Courses of Action:

- I. Buses should maintain a controlled speed and not stop in the middle of the road.
  - II. Crossing the speed limit in overtaking should be highly penalized.
  - III. Buses should stop only at stands and allow sufficient time to the passengers for alighting and boarding.
- (a) Only I and II follow. (b) Only II and III follow.  
(c) Only I and III follow. (d) All the three follow.  
(e) None follows.

## ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. (c) All the others have a say in the judgement.
2. (e) This is the only fort among places famous for temples.
3. (b) All the others are measurements for days.
4. (b) It is the only water flower among the lot.
5. (e) All the others are related to the sky.
6. (d) All the others come in the category of cattle.
7. (b) All the others are chess-men.
8. (a) It is the only non-citrus fruit among the lot.
9. (b) The other is an item required for making the first.
10. (b) Both are products of the same element.
11. (d) One makes things from the other.
12. (a) Both serve the same purpose.
13. (c) One is the basic element for making the other.
14. (a) They have the person and his field relationship.
15. (c) The words are opposites.
16. (b) Both are two different items of the same general cate-

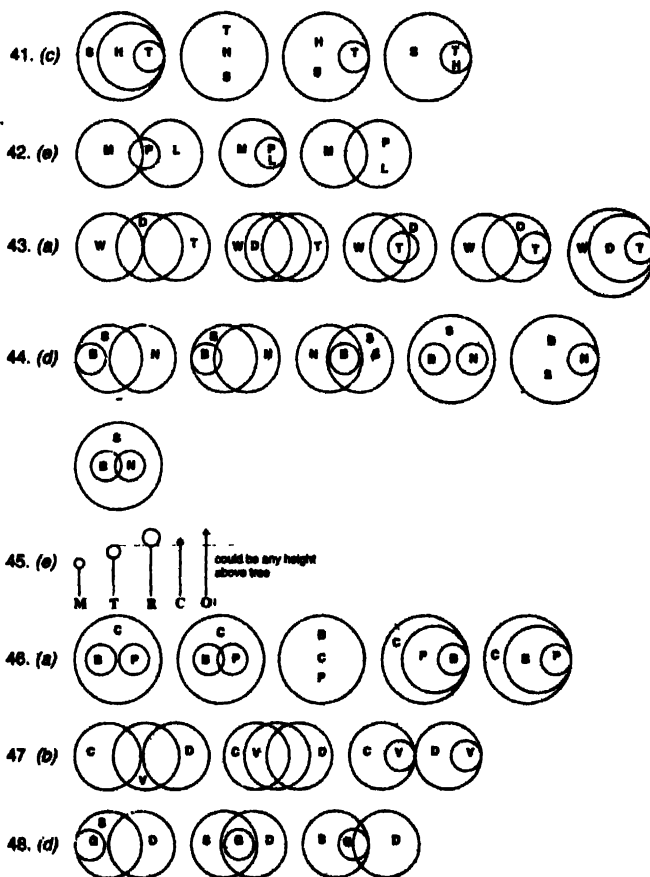
gory.

17. (b) All are neighbours with common boundary line.
18. (f) The countries are in a common continent.
19. (e) One is inside the other.
20. (c) One set has musicians, the other scientists.
21. (a) The three stand as land-marks in their respective fields.
22. (d) The relationship is that of person, his field of achievement and the place he belongs to.

23 to 27. Some have jumbled letters, some take the preceding or the next letter from alphabets as code or after coding the word the letters may be written in reverse order (Q 27).

- |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 23. (d) | 24. (c) | 25. (a) | 26. (e) | 27. (b) |
| 28. (b) | 29. (b) | 30. (a) | 31. (d) | 32. (b) |
| 33. (c) | 34. (c) | 35. (e) | 36. (b) | 37. (c) |
| 38. (c) | 39. (d) | 40. (b) |         |         |

The best way to answer the next type of questions is by drawing diagrams of all the probable situations and then reaching the fool-proof conclusion. Let each item be represented by a circle irrespective of its size. Here are some examples:



- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 49. (a) | 50. (b) | 51. (d) |
| 52. (b) | 53. (c) | 54. (a) |
| 55. (e) | 56. (a) | 57. (b) |
| 58. (e) | 59. (a) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (d) | 62. (c) | 63. (e) |
| 64. (c) |         | 65. (a) |
| 66. (e) |         | 67. (c) |
| 68. (c) |         | 69. (b) |
| 70. (d) |         |         |

# **Questions on Social and Economic Problems**

**Q.** There have been various scandals in the telecom sector. These have given rise to several discussions and arguments regarding the licensing of the telecom sector. Discuss and give arguments *For and Against* licensing.

**Ans.** *In the recent times, there have been various problems in the telecom sector. A number of people have argued that the number of players in the field should be limited. Some, however, do point out that this could be detrimental to the services.*

## **Arguments Against limiting players**

The National Telecom Policy 1994 (NTP '94) had signalled a shift from monopoly in telecom services towards a culture of competition. There were to be more players in the telecom services. In such a situation, there is no need to limit the number of players in the field except where such limitation becomes an operational necessity because of the limited availability of radio frequencies. It is quite possible to have upto 10-12 players per city against the existing limit of 2 to 4.

The British system has shown that removing restrictions in the number of players is the best for the customer. Britain has over 150 basic service providers. Entry conditions for prospective service providers must be clearly spelt out and then it should be left to market dynamics. It has also been suggested that there should be a strong regulatory authority to ensure a level playing field among service providers. Also, where the number of players has to be restricted because of frequency restrictions, there should be transparent tender procedures so that the entire process is operated and seen to be operated fairly.

## **Arguments For limiting the number of players**

The number of players in this service has to be kept limited mainly because of frequency constraints. Duopoly is favourable only in basic services. This was because of certain basic reasons. While involvement of the private sector and its competition with the DOT (Department of Telecommunications) would result in more telephones and better services, it is felt that the time is not yet ripe for adopting a free for all telecom licensing policy. A free for all telecom policy has a number of minus points like wasteful investment, share capacity, cartelisation and mutually destructive competition—harmful to both economy and the subscribers. It also reduces the possibility of cross subsidisation resulting in the neglect of the poor, the rural areas and remote regions. Moreover, it leads to more hassles in regard to inter-connection and frequency allocation. Problems are also created for the regulator.

There are various problems that engulf this particular area. Certain solutions can be found that would be mutually acceptable to all the concerned parties. Regulation is an integral part of all privatisation efforts on utilities. There is a need for such regulations. A major question in deciding about limiting the number of players in the market is that of technology. Although there has been a lot of support for restraining competition, there is no doubt about the fact that better services, lower prices through competition and technological prowess will become the primary factors in India.

**Q.** There is a lot of talk going on about a slowdown in exports. Discuss the vari-

ous factors that could be responsible and argue whether there really is a slowdown or not.

**Ans.** It has often been said that for the country to move on a path of sustained development, exports play an important part. However, in recent times there has been a talk of a slowdown in exports. There are a number of reasons given for this kind of a phase.

Nearly one-fourth of the Indian exporters fall in the category of people who cater to the lucrative domestic market but prefer to export. With the entry of multinationals into the Indian market, these exporters have started focussing on the Indian market rather than face the hassles of exports.

Indian exporters have been exporting at prices lower than their cost of production in order to compete internationally. Compensatory fiscal concessions granted to them have now been partially withdrawn which is creating a lot of problems.

International markets have become highly competitive. Countries like China, South Korea and Taiwan are dumping their goods in a big way. Therefore, Indian exporters are finding it difficult to export, particularly because of the high production costs involved.

The prime reason for the slowdown is said to be para 47 which was inserted in the Trade Policy. This has forced exporters to pay additional customs duties which could be later claimed against Modvat or drawback. However, products not subject to Modvat or excise were not able to recover the additional customs duty paid.

In February 1996, post shipment credit, which was available at the Libor

rate, was withdrawn, making the cost of credit very high. The government also imposed MAT in the current budget discouraging exporters.

The slowdown in exports is a part of the general slowdown in the economy and global trade. The export growth of China, South Korea and Japan has also come down, thereby lowering the ocean freights.

Infrastructural problems have become very grave. Exporters are confronted with port bottlenecks and shortages of power, railway rakes etc. It is very difficult to sustain a high rate of exports growth unless the infrastructural areas are given top priority.

A major portion of Indian exports are in textiles and leather. The markets for these are not expanding much. There is a need to diversify the export basket to attain greater growth. There is also a need to penetrate new markets and acquire larger shares in existing markets. India must develop new 'niche products' where it will have a distinct competitive advantage.

Besides such factors, it is important to have an environment of a strong political will, deepest political commitment, earnest administrative and systemic support for quick export growth. Lowering interest rates and containing inflation should be among the major objectives as these play a vital role in making goods price competitive in the international market.

**Q. The government has been caught in a fertiliser subsidy trap. In this kind of a situation, there has been a lot of discussion on strategies of cutting down the bulging fertiliser subsidy to the minimum. Discuss the various aspects of a prospective subsidy policy.**

**Ans.** The fertiliser subsidy issue has been of much concern to the government. From Rs 170 crore in 1980-81, the subsidy on chemical fertilisers has now gone upto Rs 6148 crore—Rs 4500 crore on indigenous and Rs 1648 crore on imported fertilisers. People who are for liberalisation in all fields want removal of all subsidies. However, the leaders are not interested in this.

The objectives of a sound fertiliser subsidy policy actually should be:

(a) To protect the Small And Marginal Farmer (SAMF). He should get fertilisers at an affordable price.

(b) To lure investments to keep enlarging the fertiliser production base. Imports must play only a marginal supplementary role.

(c) To eliminate the high cost of subsidy within five years.

The present policy has basically achieved two objectives (1) ensured that the farmers got fertilisers at an affordable price and (2) ensured that India became a major fertiliser producer, especially of nitrogen and phosphorus. India has thus become immune to the blackmail of global producers.

The following suggestions have been made regarding a new subsidy policy:

(a) The SAMF should get his requirement of fertilisers at a reasonable price. The quantum of his need can be assessed on the basis of present consumption pattern. The bigger and richer farmers must afford higher prices. Fertiliser security should be for the poor only.

(b) It has to be ensured that the SAMFs access the fertiliser set aside at a reasonable price. It is important for every dealer to have a list of the SAMFs in his area. Besides the dealer network, the PDS system can also be utilised.

(c) Many plants recover the initial expenditure incurred on customs, excise etc within five-six years, and for the remaining life of the plant, the subsidy price mechanism comes as a bonus. This pushes up the cost of the subsidy. To cut down on subsidy, the subsidy element in the fertiliser price related to customs, excise and other duties paid by the promoter while setting up the plant has to be identified

(d) Investment in fertiliser plants should be encouraged and the following concessions can be given:

- exemption from customs, excise and other duties of capital goods for setting up new plants or modernisation or expansion of plants.
- ten-year tax holiday for new plants.
- permission to raise money from the parallel economy.

With certain basic steps like these, it

would be possible to ensure that the country doesn't face an acute subsidy trap problem.

**Q. Should privatisation be introduced in the power sector? What would comprise privatising State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and would this be a boon or curse to the consumers? Discuss.**

**Ans.** Almost all States in India suffer from severe power shortages. These shortages are mainly due to the inability of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to finance the needed expansion of generating capacity. This inability, in turn, is the outcome of their financial sickness resulting from the various subsidies that the SEBs are forced to give and their inability to charge appropriate prices for electricity because of political pressures.

Privatisation of the SEBs would mean getting at the root of the problem and restoring the financial health of the SEBs. Then, it would be possible for them to work towards expansion of generating capacity. Shortages would then disappear. The fact, however, is that under the current political scenario, raising prices for all consumers is not easy for SEBs. The only option that remains is to invite private firms to come and set up generating plants. Although privatisation in the matter of generation is already now commonly accepted, even that requires autonomy for SEBs.

When supply is allocated to different generating plants, the total system cost of meeting the energy needs is minimised. No load factor guarantee is given to any plant. For such a system to work efficiently, that is, in a way that minimises the total cost of generation, the distributing company has to be independent and have profit maximisation as its objective.

Another reason to privatise the SEBs is that the high T & D losses cannot be set right unless the SEB officials are sure of backing by higher ups. They cannot hold staff members accountable if political pressure will make them back down. To correct this problem, there is a need for massive changes. Politicians have to be cut out of SEBs. This is possible only through privatisation.

Privatisation, however, does not mean no public control at all. The government can still own 49 per cent of equity, public financial institutions can have additional 20 per cent equity, so that together they have commanding control. It has to be recognised that even without the controlling interest public control is possible through appropriate regulatory boards. Even with privatisation, public interests can be protected. It can be ensured that a particular generating plant is so built that utility is efficient and also, the burden of high cost or inefficiency should not be passed on to the consumers.

There are other ways also to introduce decentralisation in the system. For example, panchayats can be given the power to distribute electricity and collect all bills. They can also be given the freedom to set the tariff and retain whatever profits they make for the benefit of the community. SEBs can sell electricity to the panchayats at one point, for a fixed tariff, at which the collection can be very easy. This way, the SEB would not make any losses. The charge that a farmer pays would, in some sense, come back to him as the panchayat would be expected to invest in welfare schemes which benefit the villagers, including the farmer.

There are various aspects of the privatisation problem. Some people say that it would increase the price that consumers would have to pay. Any reform of electricity boards would require that the consumers who are given subsidised electricity would have to pay a higher price and the subsidy would have to be withdrawn. That kind of cost increase is unavoidable. However, one has to recognise that subsidies that lead to shortages are expensive for consumers also. With privatisation, one main advantage is that farmers can get electricity as and when they want it, with appropriate regulatory mechanism at low cost.

A number of people are of the view that the government should provide much more direct income support and transfers to the poor than providing them with subsidised electricity. Privatisation by and large would prove to be helpful to the

economy.

**Q. After five years of liberalisation and economic changes, there is a need to revise our policies and adopt certain changes required. What are the areas in which improvements could be possible especially in context of our planning?**

**Ans.** It is now increasingly felt that there is a need to change the planning process in India. The earlier target-oriented planning for investment allocation for a full five-year period should gradually be replaced by planning for policies in a market economy to achieve development objectives. Changes occur very suddenly in the economy these days and we cannot predict or even gain knowledge for the entire period. Only policies can be specified. That is, the emphasis then would be on planning of policies. The following suggestions have been given by experts:

1. Public expenditures should be made consistent with all other macro and micro economic policies that operate through the market mechanism. Planning has to be concerned with not just the public sector but also the private sector.

2. It is important to finish all the incomplete tasks of economic reforms. Objectives can be realised by focussing on economic reforms that try to make the markets more competitive, open and flexible.

3. An appropriate legal framework is required that would deal with property rights, contract enforcement and dispute settlement, not only transparently, but also without delay. In India, a lot needs to be done with regard to dispute settlement and labour legislation, land settlement, environmental regulations and numerous requirements of bureaucratic clearance. Land reforms in particular, need a lot of attention.

4. Public enterprises need to be restructured and made more efficient. Where necessary, appropriate disinvestment should be carried out.

5. The financial sector is another area of unfinished reforms. In the majority of rapidly growing developing countries, the reforms in the financial sector have been

the prerequisites for the success of development policies. In India, a lot needs to be done. In fact, the success of a majority of other programmes also depends on these reforms.

Our policies should aim at outlining the macro-economic policies associated with the desirable path of growth. This path is normally expressed in terms of a consistent set of growth rates of GDP and of a number of broad sectors like agriculture, industry, infrastructure and social services as well as the rates of changes of target variables—unemployment, price level, exports, foreign exchange reserves, people below the poverty line.

It is indeed high time that the economy starts looking beyond detailed, lengthy plans. These have to be organised more in the context of our infrastructure for information gathering. Short-term realistic targets that are based on sound information are better than unrealistic goals.

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THIS MONTH YESTERDAY

# December: Before and After Independence

## Before Independence

December has been quite an eventful month in our pre-independence history. The month witnessed events like formation of East India Association by Dadabhai Naoroji on **December 1, 1866**, establishment of Belur Math by Swami Vivekananda on **December 9, 1898**, arrival of King George and Queen Mary in India on **December 2, 1911** and presentation of Nobel Prize to Dr C.V. Raman on **December 10, 1930**.

In this section we shall have a perusal on the first meeting of Indian National Congress and the first meeting of the Indian Constituent Assembly.

## INC

Plans of having an All India nationalist organisation materialised on **December 25, 1885** when 72 political leaders from different parts of the country met at the Sanskrit College, Bombay, under the inspiration of A.O. Hume and formed the Indian National Congress. Prominent amongst the pioneers included Dadabhai Naoroji, Justice Ranade, Feroze Shah Mehta, K.T. Telang, Badruddin Tyabji, G. Subramanya Iyer, S. Subramanya Iyer, Ananda Charu, Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose. The first meeting was presided over by W.C. Banerjee.

## Constituent Assembly

On **December 9, 1946** the first session of the Constituent Assembly of India was inaugurated in New Delhi. While representatives of all Provinces and communities participated in the session, members of the Muslim League were conspicuous by their absence. Dr Sachchidananda, the oldest member of the House, was elected temporary Chairman of the Assembly. On **December 11, 1946** Rajendra Prasad was elected permanent President of the Assembly. In his inaugural address Rajendra Prasad, while

acknowledging limitations of the Assembly, said, "I am aware that this Assembly has been born with certain limitations placed on it from its birth, ..., in spite of these limitations, the Assembly is a self-governing and self-determining, independent body in whose proceedings no outside authority can interfere and whose decisions no one upset, alter or modify"

## After Independence

Some of the important events that took place during the months of December include Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's joining world leaders to receive 'Beyond War' award on **December 14, 1985**, swearing-in of Vishwanath Pratap Singh as the 8th Prime Minister of India on **December 12, 1989** and pulling down of 430-year old Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on **December 6, 1992**.

However, in this section we shall focus on Indo-Pak war, crucial decisions taken by the Lok Sabha and Cricket.

## Indo-Pak War

Frustrated by the perception of defeat in East Pakistan, Pakistan launched massive air attack on India's western sector on **December 3, 1971**. Indian anti-aircraft guns shot down three Pakistani planes and on the next day Indian Air Force launched a counter offensive and shot down 33 Pakistani planes. Subsequently, Indian Navy also launched an offensive and on **December 5** the news about the sinking of two Pakistani ships, *Khaiibar* and *Shahjehani*, rejoiced Indians. On **December 9**, Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram disclosed the news of sinking of Pakistan's biggest submarine *Ghazi*. Sensing India's all out win, on **December 11** Pakistani General Farman Ali called upon UN to arrange troops-repatriation in East Pakistan. India continued to increase its pressure and on **December 15** General Niazi appealed

for cease-fire. However, General Manekshaw set deadline for the surrender of Pakistani forces and on the next day all East Pakistani forces under General A.A.K. Niazi surrendered before Lt Gen Jagjit Singh. Finally, on **December 17**, with Yahya Khan's accepting conditions laid down by India, the 14 days old Indo-Pak war came to an end.

## Lok Sabha

A number of important decisions were taken in the Lok Sabha during the months of December. For instance, on **December 1, 1971** Lok Sabha passed the 25th Amendment Bill to safeguard the implementation of Directive Principles and next day it passed the Bill to end Privy Purses. On **December 15, 1988** Lok Sabha passed the Poll Reforms Bill, lowering voting age. On **December 9, 1989** it passed the Consumer Protection Bill. It was on **December 22, 1992** that the Lok Sabha unanimously passed the much awaited *Panchayati Raj* and *Nagarpalika* Bills.

## Cricket

In this section we shall focus on the 1981 Test series between India and England. On **December 1, 1981** India bowled out England for 102 and won the Bombay Test. In the second innings Indian ace bowlers, Kapil Dev and Madan Lal, claimed five wickets each. Later, during the Bangalore Test on **December 14** Sunil Gavaskar set the dubious record of scoring 172 runs in 708 minutes. In the same series at New Delhi three records got entry into the books. On **December 27**, G. Vishwanath scored his 13th Test century and Syeed Kirmani and Ravi Shastri set the record of 122 for the 8th wicket. On the following day Ravi Shastri, along with Madan Lal, set the partnership record of 109 runs for the 9th wicket.

## 50th Year of India's Independence



Tapti Das lives in Bhadreswar in Hooghly district of West Bengal. She wants to be a journalist

*It really hurts me when I find people copying Western mannerisms to be labelled as modern by their fellow Indians. Though we may have achieved independence, our brains are still ruled by a British mindset.*

*When we learn to be proud to be Indians and try to be modern by retaining our individuality, only then will we be free of our mental colonialisation. We must know the scientific basis of our rich traditions and try to improve them by getting rid of practices like sati, caste system and bride burning. We have strong traditions which respect nature and the environment, and this is what the West is discovering today. I think that even today, India can provide leadership to the world in many areas, if only we learn about our rich traditions and modify them.*

*There is much in our culture that holds meaning even in the materialistic world of today. I am proud to belong to a country where this knowledge is available. I only wish that we learn to respect it and begin to make use of it. By doing this, India can stand as a unique country among all the other nations of the world.*



Deepak M. Shah is doing his B.Tech. in Agricultural Engineering in Junagadh in Gujarat

*The fact that our country has entered its fiftieth year of independence fills my heart with pride. But the sense of elevation has been evaporating slowly over the years. This is because we believe freedom is the license to be indisciplined. Today, most politicians and bureaucrats think that freedom means the right to line their purses through taking bribes. It is no wonder that poverty does not go away inspite of growth. This is subversion of independence and they deserve the highest punishment.*

*I dream of an India where our civil*

### Voices

*We publish here some more responses from our readers who sent their entries for our competition to mark India's Fiftieth year of independence. Young people from across the country have written to tell us about their feelings and hopes. Many have also exhibited idealism and we hope this is kept alive in times to come.*

*servants and leaders are clean. This dream can easily be converted to reality if the investigating agencies simply do their job. If I came to power, I will ensure that people in high offices declare their assets. Anyone having assets beyond their means will have summary trials and their property confiscated. If we have honesty among public figures, the country will once again be on the path to prosperity.*



Sanjana Lall lives in Patna, where she is doing her M.A. in English

*Being an Indian I feel the same thrill that Jawaharlal Nehru must have felt when he wrote his books. But when I look beneath the prosperous surface of advanced and high-tech markets, I find helpless and hungry masses. True, we have progressed, but at what cost? We have sold ourselves and the nation is like an unending scam serial. We have become immune to the dirty activities going around us. The youth are not ignorant but are becoming indifferent since they are helpless.*

*True, we cannot create a Utopian country. But what I hope for my country is that we should stop criminals and hooligans from entering politics. These people have made a mockery out of our freedom. Building of national character and inner strength is required, the rest will inevitably follow. For this, we have to go back to our culture and not be swept from our feet by the Western*

*culture invading us. I recall the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."*



Rupeshor Singh lives in Shillong, where he works as an auditor in defence accounts.

*India is under democratic rule for fifty years while other countries have seen dictatorships. This is an achievement for our country and I feel proud of it. Yet, the people who could stand up to the might of the British empire are today falling to social evils and compromising their honesty. This is a cause of worry and some steps have to be thought of to prevent this from spreading.*

*If I came to power, I would make a provision that meritorious people could enter the government without contesting elections. This will ensure that the country's talent does not go waste and right thinking people could enter politics.*



J. J. Verghese lives in Jalandhar. He is in the Army.

*I am proud to be a son of India. Insipite of our weaknesses we are marching ahead in a slow but sure way. The avarice of some people has spoiled our humane qualities. I abhor the lust for money and power. Even religion has become a tool to be used by bigots.*

*It may be said that we get the government we deserve, but I do not agree with this. Politicians have subverted the system to such a great extent that the government we get is certainly not the one we deserve. Today, a government is thrust upon us though we may not have voted for it. Indians are forced to hang their heads in shame when proclaimed offenders and history sheeters set foot in Parliament!*

*My dream is to cleanse the system of governance. Democracy means rule by*



## 50th Year of India's Independence

popular government, and not by manipulators who have continued to subvert the system for their own petty ends.



Kirti Sharma is a student of civil architecture engineering at Allahabad.

Being an Indian means that I am vested with the responsibility of fulfilling the dreams of the people who fought for our independence. I feel that I have to put in my best for the country, since independence was obtained after a great struggle. I dream of a progressive, educated and prosperous India. If it was possible, I would change the outlook of Indians from 'self-centred' to 'nation-centred'. If this change can be brought about, many of our problems would be automatically wiped out.



Rekha Vashisht teaches in Kendriya Vidyalaya in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

India is a country of rich culture and heritage, a country which has many vivid colours of life. I dream of a country where people have a modern outlook and have shed religious and caste shackles, a place where politicians do not take advantage of common people, and a place where men and women are treated equally.

It breaks my heart to see students discriminated against on the basis of caste. Even in jobs, merit should be the only criteria for selection. Creating reservations has not solved our problems and we are being pushed into the past through such methods. Except the politician, no other person can be blamed for perpetuating this system. I wish there was a way of getting rid of people who want to push us back into the past.



Palashmoni Saikia is studying M.Sc. in Chemistry in Guwahati in Assam.

The spirit of independence and enthusiasm associated with it may have dimmed somewhat but we still hoist our flag and sing our national anthem with pride. I have a dream of making Indians into winners. We should be able to win medals in international sports events and also international awards like the Nobel prize. To achieve this, our policies must be modified to encourage effort in every field.

One of the first thing that I would initiate if I ever came to power would be to lay emphasis on curtailing population growth. Secondly, I would make India into a nuclear superpower. Finally, I would separate politics from religion so that it cannot be misused by parties to garner votes.



Geetanjali Gusam studies in class XI in Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School in Moradabad in U.P.

There are many things to be proud of in India but many things to let us down. I am proud of its rich heritage as well as the people working silently to make it a great nation. But I am ashamed of our political leaders. They are exploiting innocent people and take bribes while the nation is impoverished.

My dream is to become a successful doctor. I want to open a hospital in a village in a remote area. I think by doing this I will help the nation.

Given a chance, I would first send the corrupt leaders into jail and confiscate their property. Then, I would demolish problems of poverty, illiteracy, communalism and regionalism. These are a great hindrance to our progress and by doing these things we may be moving a step in the direction of making India a great and prosperous nation.



Ruchi Sharma is doing her B.A. from Miranda House, New Delhi.

India offers unity in diversity. We have made great achievements in the field of agriculture, industry and technology but we

have not been able to shake off the tag of being an "underdeveloped economy". Certainly, a greater effort is needed to move into the league of advanced nations. We can learn from other nations and follow their example in achieving this objective, by promoting female literacy and creating avenues that reward initiative. If opportunities were available in India itself, our bright people would not go abroad and contribute to the brain-drain.



Anuradha Ghosh lives in Jalpaiguri. She is preparing for her civil services exam.

It makes me very proud to hear stories about our independence struggle. Many people tried to split the country in the past, but they failed. We have emerged as a united nation and despite problems, we continue to move forward as a nation.

Yes, there is a great difference between the India of my dreams and the India that exists in reality. It is a pity that today's youth is growing up in a time of all-encompassing corruption, crime and low morality. But in spite of these influences, I am sure that we will emerge stronger.



Shraddha Prasad studies in Banaras Hindu University, where she is studying for her B.A.

India has been taking big strides on the road to development. We set an example of secularism to the rest of the world. But thinking about our social evils, we do not seem to be living in the land of Mahatma Gandhi's dreams. What we should do on our independence day this year is to think about ways through which the nation can be prevented from sliding further. It is essential for us to give importance to preservation and growth of culture and morals, along with economic growth. The nation's real growth is not a set of figures, but how we live. What good is economic growth if we cannot save our culture?

## PARAGRAPH-WRITING

# Model Paragraphs

**"Verbosity is the natural companion of pomposity."**

The use of more words or expressions by a pompous fellow is as natural a behaviour as that of a fish who cannot live without water under any circumstances. Pomposity is a trait of some who believe in self-assertion and draw fake strength from a wild use of gestures. Like twins, both verbosity and pomposity share common features that are quite jarring to the ear and irksome to the intelligent. Where brevity can serve the purpose, the pompous fellow makes a show of his presence by throwing words indiscriminately. Since verbosity and pomposity sustain each other like mutual friends or beneficiaries, it is absurd to expect them to exercise restraint which is the other name of discretion and discipline. Pomposity suffers from an inherent weakness of show-off and pretensions and quite naturally it looks upto verbosity to make its presence felt. A pompous person leads an artificial life by asserting his crude conviction that 'pomp and show' can do the trick in no time and win friends. Those who suffer from the obsession of being more important than others and try to impress with more words and phrases than are needed, only deceive themselves.

**'The great end of life is not knowledge but action.'**

—T.H. Huxley

The place of action in human life is paramount and decisive. Without knowledge, any step taken, even with good intentions, may not bear such fruits as are sweet. The foundation of life's march towards progress and prosperity is based

on concrete action backed by knowledge. Just as mere meditation means lack of faith in self-assertion and promotion of the policy of escapism, similarly praising knowledge to the skies and ignoring work, is putting the cart before the horse. The essence of all knowledge is reflected in human endeavour. Sitting in an ivory tower of knowledge and avoiding the battle-field of life, is an insult to human ingenuity and waste of various talents that God has given us. Life is not a series of reflections but certainly a chain of actions that are bound to result in something inspiring and rewarding. A scholar may brood over the problems of the world and sit passively in some cosy corner, but a man of action cannot afford to be lethargic nor can he allow his life to go waste when the challenges are there to provoke him and chances to exploit and reap a rich harvest.

**"Few have reason, most have eyes."**

—Charles Churchill

The minority watches, analyses and concludes whereas the majority sees, and believes. The former use discretion and avoid falling into the pitfalls that visual perceptions create for them. The latter, though in large numbers, seldom use the rare gift of brain over brawn. 'Seeing is believing' is the natural behaviour with most people but in the opinion of law makers and natural justice, the visible may not be the entire truth. Just as the vast store house of treasure lies hidden from the naked eye and has to be dug out from the bowels of earth, in the same vein much knowledge and wisdom has to be gathered from intuition, rational assessment of

physical situations and from contacts with mighty minds of the present and past. Unlike the crowd that follows others like a herd of sheep, the wise men stop, survey and settle for something that can hold water and stand the test of time. Without reason or argument, we are liable to make errors here, there and everywhere. In order to rid ourselves of the make-believe world of 'seeing', we should listen to the counsel that the wise men give and use our analytical powers before jumping into the fray.

**"Time hurts; time heals."**

Of all the forces of nature, time is both invincible as well as inexorable. If it hurts and causes irritation and inconvenience, it consoles and comforts the sufferer as well. The old adage that time is a great healer, has kept human race in a state of readiness to face the worst and expect the best. If at one point of time, destruction on a massive scale unnerves us, it is no less miraculous that time offers healing touches to our wounded psyches and broken hearts. The history of mankind is a telling saga of tears and cheers, hopes and fears, trials and tribulations. Time like a hard task-master keeps us on our toes and as the ring master of the circus or arena, it harries us and also harmonises our concepts and concrete actions. During the short span of time that we spend after birth, time plays a pivotal role in the lives of one and all. For some, time is always out of tune, while for others it is never a deceptive agent of nature. In order to make a mark in life, we must always try to comprehend time's temper and attune our thoughts, talents and actions to its changing mores and moods.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Information Technology

### Important Terms

**Acoustic coupler:** An acoustic coupler is a device that allows data to be sent between two computers over telephone lines. It is used to change a digital signal into sound. An acoustic coupler has a speaker in a cup placed over the mouthpiece, and a microphone in a cup placed over the earpiece.

*With an acoustic coupler it is possible to communicate with other computers.*

**Acronym:** An acronym is a word made up of the first letter or letters of other words. The letters used in an acronym make a new word. COBOL is the acronym for COmmon Business Oriented Language. ROM is the acronym for Read Only Memory. The abbreviation dpi is not an acronym because it is spoken as a list of letters, d p i.

*RAM is the acronym for Random Access Memory.*

**Adaptor:** An adaptor is a device used to change the relationship between two other devices. For example an adaptor may change the voltage of the electrical current, or it may allow different types of connectors to be used. An adaptor can also be a circuit board fitted into a computer.

*A gender changer is a kind of adaptor used with a plug or socket.*

**Address:** The address is the location of information, or data, in a computer's memory. The computer gives data an address when it stores it. A program can then find, or retrieve, the data at that address.

*A computer uses an address just like the postman uses an address on a letter.*

**Algorithm:** An algorithm is a set of instructions. The algorithm sets out the series of steps necessary to find the solution to a problem. The programmer must find the best way to solve the problem and

then change, or convert, the algorithm into instructions in programming language.

*Algorithms are the instructions used to solve problems.*

**Alphanumeric:** Alphanumeric describes both the letters and numbers on a computer keyboard. 'Alpha' stands for the letters of the alphabet. 'Numeric' stands for numbers, or numerals. In the English language there are 26 lower case letters, a to z, and 26 upper case letters, A to Z. There are also ten numbers, 0 to 9. Together, these characters make up an alphanumeric character set. The term alphanumeric is sometimes used to include punctuation and other symbols on a keyboard.

*Most computer keyboards are alphanumeric.*

**Alternate key:** The alternate key is a key found on many computer keyboards. The alternate key is used in combination with other keys. It is held down while another key or a command is typed in. The alternate key is sometimes referred to as the Alt key.

*The alternate key is often used in combination with a function key.*

**Analog:** Analog describes a measurement which changes smoothly from one value to another. Examples include sound, temperature and frequency. An analog signal is often pictured as a wave.

*Analog measurements are often used in medicine and scientific testing.*

**Animation:** Animation is used by computer programs to show moving pictures. Video games are the most popular use of animation. Animation is also used in educational programs and to show in simple form how very complicated things work. Artists use animation programs to prepare pictures and words that can move across a computer, television or movie screen.

*Cartoons used to be drawn entirely by hand but can now be produced more quickly using computerized animation.*

### Application:

1. An application is a kind of problem to be solved, or a particular kind of activity.

*Designing racing cars is an application where computers are very helpful.*

2. An application is a software program specially designed for one kind of activity. Wordprocessing programs and spreadsheet programs are examples of applications.

*A graphics program is an application that lets the user work with pictures and colours.*

**Architecture:** The architecture is the design of a part of a computer or computer system. The design of computer hardware is known as computer architecture. The design of computer networks is called network architecture. Systems architecture applies to computer systems, and the design of applications is applications architecture. The architecture is important to the flow of information between all parts of a computer.

*Good architecture is necessary for a computer system to work efficiently.*

**Archive:** To archive is to store information for future use. The information can be brought back, or retrieved, if necessary. Archiving is different from back up. The archived file is removed from a computer's memory after being stored on a device such as a floppy disk or magnetic tape. When long-term storage is important, archived material may be kept in a separate building, or in fire-proof safes.

*When the project was finished, the first job was to archive all the files and place the disks in the safe.*

*To be continued*

## LIFE & PROFILE

# Rajendra Prasad

Rajendra Prasad was born on December 3, 1884 at Zeradei village in Saran district of Bihar. His father, Mr Mahadev Sahai, was brought up by Chaudhur Lal, his grand-father's elder brother. Chaudhur Lal rose to the position of Dewan of Hathua Estate, but Rajendra Prasad's father was much interested in gardening. As per the prevailing practice, Rajendra Prasad was initiated into the study of Persian at the age of five by a Maulavi. Rajendra Prasad's mother Kamleshwari Devi groomed him into a religious man.

After receiving elementary education in village, Rajendra Prasad was sent to Chapra District School in the eighth class for English education. After passing the Entrance Examinations, he was admitted to the Patna College.

His period of studying in Calcutta coincided with a new phase of political and cultural awakening in India. The Dawn Society had considerably influenced Rajendra Prasad and his inclinations for public activities were crystallised during the period. He started Bihari Club in Calcutta and associated himself with College Union. He invariably attended meetings organised during anti-partition and Swadeshi movements but at no point of time ignored his studies. After securing first rank in History Honours, he joined his M.A. Owing to his father's illness and his subsequent death, Rajendra Prasad discontinued his studies for a while and later he decided to study law. In 1911 he started practicing as a lawyer. Later, he got the degree of M.L. but could not submit his thesis for the D.L. because of his active involvement in politics. In December, 1916 Rajendra Prasad attended the crucial Congress session held in

Lucknow, where some delegates from Bihar raised the issue of hardships of indigo ryots in Champaran. In April, 1917, when Gandhiji paid a visit to Bihar, Rajendra Prasad came in close contact with him.

The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, embodied in Government of India Act 1919, found the favour of Rajendra Prasad who wished to give it a trial.

The adverse economic effect of World War I, *Khilafat* movement and harsh provisions of Rowlatt Bill stirred Indians. To the Gandhiji's call for a nation-wide satyagrah on April 6, 1919, Rajendra Prasad, along with other prominent leaders, signed the satyagrah pledge and under his leadership Patna observed complete hartal.

Following ratification of 'non-cooperation' movement at the special session at Nagpur in December 1920, Bihar, under his leadership, made undaunted response to it. Rajendra Prasad also gave up his practices as a lawyer, except for appearing in the High Court in Hariji's case. After the Gaya Session of Congress in December 1922, Rajendra Prasad became Secretary of the Congress. He toured a lot and exhorted people with his speeches. He wrote articles for *Searchlight* and *Desh*.

Between 1924 and 1928 Rajendra Prasad emerged as the life-breath of the constructive activities. It was in recognition of his valuable services to Swadeshi that Rajendra Prasad was accorded the honour of inaugurating the All-India Swadeshi Exhibition at the Belgaum Congress in 1924.

During the visit of Simon Commission, Rajendra Prasad was largely credited for peaceful demonstrations in Bihar. From 1930 to 1934 he guided the Civil Disobedience Movement in Bihar with unflinching

determination. He suffered several terms of rigorous imprisonment. In January 1934, when the devastating earthquake struck Bihar, he was in jail. On being released from the jail he set himself to the task of raising funds and collected Rs 38 lakh. Impressed by his efforts, Congress elected him the President of Bombay session in 1934. He was re-elected President in 1935 and again in 1939 during the crisis over Subhas Chandra Bose's leadership.

During the World War II his policy and stand in connection with the individual Civil Disobedience Movement was exceptional. With the launching of Quit India he was lodged to Bankipur jail. In jail Chakradhar Saran and Mathura Prasad helped him in revising the manuscript of his book 'India Divided'. He also wrote books entitled, *Satyagrah in Champaran*, *Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar: Some Reminiscences* and *Bapu Ke Kadamon Men*.

Later, as President of the Constituent Assembly, he played an exemplary role. Besides championing for the cause of village industries, he expressed his keen interest for providing strong educational infrastructure. He had strong conviction about the utility of *Nai Talim*. He attached great importance to the establishment of 'Rural University'. He was in favour of three-language formula comprising one regional language besides Hindi and English.

As the first President of the country, he exercised his influence so silently that many were led to think that he neither reigned nor ruled. After serving for two terms as the President, in May 1962, Rajendra Prasad made Sadaqat Ashram his hermitage where he breathed his last on February 28, 1963.

# The Examiner's Guess Questions

**Q.** Where was the inaugural ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held recently?

**Ans.** Singapore.

**Q.** When was the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day held?

**Ans.** October 1, 1996.

**Q.** When was the World Post Day?

**Ans.** October 9, 1996.

**Q.** When was the World Standards day?

**Ans.** October 14, 1996.

**Q.** When was the World Thrift Day?

**Ans.** October 30, 1996.

**Q.** Which State in India accommodated 1000 Polish children during the Second World War?

**Ans.** For thousands of Polish families of the erstwhile State of Jamnagar in Gujarat, was their second motherland as they spent their childhood there during 1942-48.

When the Russian troops had taken a large number of Polish children in their custody during the Second World War, some of them in Kazakhstan travelled to Jamnagar, where the State had made special camps for them. These children stayed in Jamnagar between 1942-48 and left after the war was over.

**Q.** Which country will be ISRO's first customer for launching of satellites?

**Ans.** Canada will be ISRO's first customer for launching of remote sensing and communication satellites. The two countries have signed an MoU for co-operation in space-related ventures.

**Q.** Which new railway zone has been inaugurated recently?

**Ans.** The North Western Zonal Railway was inaugurated by Prime Minister Deve Gowda in Jaipur on October 17, 1996. It comprises Ajmer, Jaipur, Kota (transferred from Western Railway) and Bikaner and Jodhpur divisions (transferred from Northern Railway).

**Q.** What is the new wheat support

price?

**Ans.** The government has increased the minimum support price of wheat by Rs 35 per quintal raising the procurement price from Rs 380 to Rs 415 for fair average quality. The minimum support price for fair average quality barley is Rs 305 per quintal, which marks an increase of Rs 10 per quintal.

**Q.** To which country is India planning to export heavy water?

**Ans.** India will export 100 tonnes of heavy water to South Korea and delivery will start next year, as per an agreement signed between the two countries.

**Q.** In which country is India seeking to conduct oil exploration?

**Ans.** India has approached Kazakhstan for a licence to explore oil there.

**Q.** Which is the new dancing craze, after macarena?

**Ans.** After macarena, a tongoneo contest was held on Miami beach in USA and may become as popular as the macarena.

**Q.** Which Indian players have won the international tennis challenge inaugural Australia Television Cup held at New South Wales from October 20-23, 1996?

**Ans.** The Indian team consisting of Harsh Mankad and Uzma Khan lifted the Australia Television Cup held recently.

**Q.** Which is the largest cruise ship in the world?

**Ans.** 'Carnival Destiny' is the largest cruise ship in the world. The \$ 400 million liner was built in 20 months by Italy's State shipbuilder Fincantieri. It accommodates 3400 passengers on 12 passenger decks and 1000 crew. It has the largest casino afloat, a theatre, four swimming pools and seven restaurants.

**Q.** Which State capital is to be connected by a new rail route to be constructed

within the next five years?

**Ans.** A new 119 km rail route between Agartala and Kumarghat is planned to be built in the next five years.

**Q.** Where is the International Toy Fair being held?

**Ans.** Nuremberg in Germany. India will make its first appearance in the fair. The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) is the umbrella organisation for participation of the toy industry in India.

**Q.** Which pop star visited India recently?

**Ans.** Michael Jackson. He performed his "History" tour in Mumbai on November 3, 1996.

**Q.** Which batsman is the best in the world, according to David Boon?

**Ans.** Of the world's three best batsmen—Sachin Tendulkar, Steve Waugh and Brian Lara—Tendulkar outshines all, according to Australia's most popular batsman, David Boon.

**Q.** Who has written "My South Block Years: Memoirs of a Foreign Secretary"?

**Ans.** J.N. Dixit.

**Q.** Which type of mosquito carries the dengue virus?

**Ans.** Aedes aegypti.

**Q.** Which company organised the Michael Jackson show held in Mumbai recently?

**Ans.** Wizcraft.

**Q.** Who has won the B.D. Goenka award for excellence in journalism for 1995?

**Ans.** Prannoy Roy and Vinod Dua.

**Q.** By which year is child labour proposed to be abolished by SAARC nations?

**Ans.** 2010.

**Q.** With which country has India signed the *Mahakali* treaty?

**Ans.** Nepal.

**Q.** Name the first Democrat President of USA to win two successive terms?

**Ans.** Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## Appointments Etc

### APPOINTED, ELECTED ETC

**Sheikh Saad Ali Abdullah Al Sabah** Kuwaiti crown prince and the country's PM since 1978, he has been appointed to the post again by the Amir as per tradition

**Shankersinh Vaghela** He has been appointed Chief Minister of Gujarat

**O N Srinivasa** He has been appointed Governor of Manipur

**Om Prakash Sharma** Former Punjab police chief he has been appointed Governor of Nagaland

**M N Venkatachaliah** He has been appointed chairman of the National Human Rights Association succeeding Justice Ranganath Mishra

**Shankar Kumar Mathur** He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Yugoslavia

**Nirajan Natverlal Desai** He has been appointed India's Ambassador to Venezuela

**Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani** He has been appointed Prime Minister of Qatar

### RESIGNED

**Gro Harlem Brundtland** Prime Minister of Norway

### VISITORS

**Khalid Bin Sultan** Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia

**Igor Rodionov** Russian Defence Minister

**Volker Ruhe** Defence Minister of Germany

**Gunter Rexrodt** German Federal Minister of Economics

**Annick Van Dok** Minister of Foreign Trade of Netherlands

**Alexander Downer** Australian Foreign Affairs Minister

**Ali Akbar Velayati** Iranian Foreign Minister

**Abdul Razzak** Water Resources Minister of Bangladesh

**James D Wolfensohn** World Bank President

### DIED

**J R Jayewardene** Sri Lanka's first Executive President. He was 90

the Urea scandal

2—The Security Council renews sanctions against Iraq for 60 days

3—Leaders of the G-15 developing countries caution against hijacking of WTO by developed nations

4—The Supreme Court orders former Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma to pay Rs 50 lakh to the government as exemplary damages for illegal and arbitrary allotment of 15 petrol pumps from his discretionary quota

5—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is ousted. President Leghari appoints new caretaker Prime Minister

6—President Bill Clinton is re-elected to a second term as US President

## MILESTONES

**Gabriela Sabatini** Argentina's ace tennis player popularly known as queen of hearts, retired after 12 years in the game. She won 27 tournaments including the US Open in 1990. Her memory will linger as she has promoted two brands of perfume and is the first tennis player to have a children's doll and a rose named in her honour.

**K Madhava Sarma** An Indian official of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) who has been chosen by the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to receive one of its 1996 Ozone Protection Awards.

**Amjad Ali Khan** The sarod maestro has been appointed UNICEF's national ambassador for children from the sphere of culture and creative arts.

**Madonna** Pop star Madonna gave birth to a baby girl in a Los Angeles Hospital.

**Shabana Azmi** She has won the Silver Hugo Award for Best Actress at the Chicago International Film Festival for her role in the Canadian production, 'Fire'.

**Aliveli Katakshamma** The first lady in Asia to become a bishop, she belongs to the Good Samaritan Evangelical Church, in Bhadrachalam in Andhra Pradesh.

**Seymour Cray** US computer pioneer regarded as the world's pre-eminent designer of computers. He died after an automobile accident in the US.

**Jasbir Kumar Bedi** He has been bestowed Air India's maximum mileage passenger in the world, flying 40 times a year adding upto 400,000 km annually.

## EVENTS

### OCTOBER

9—President's rule ends in J&K as a 27 member council of ministers headed by Farooq Abdullah is sworn in.

17—At least 83 people die in a stampede at a World Cup qualifying match in Guatemala.

—Central rule is reimposed in UP as no party is able to form a government after the election results.

21—Japan defeats India in the elections to the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council by 142 votes to 40 in the General Assembly.

—Explosions kill seven members of a National Conference activist Ghulam Hassan Nadaf in Anantnag district in South Kashmir.

—Andhra Pradesh continues to reel under flood fury for the fifth day. Death toll rises to 270.

23—Over 10 lakh postal and telecom workers go on strike demanding parity in bonus.

—US cargo plane explodes shortly after take off in Manta Ecuador killing 100 people.

25—A group of journalists are attacked by BSP leader Kanshi Ram and his personal staff in New Delhi.

29—Post telegraph and telecom staff call off their 7 day strike following the decision to remove the eligibility ceiling for payment of bonus.

—The 30 kw Kalpakkam mini reactor Kamini attains criticality.

30—Former PM Narasimha Rao becomes the first Prime Minister to appear in court on charges of bribery in the JMM Bribery scandal.

—Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid of offices and residences of top officials of ITC Limited in connection with FFRA violations. Four senior officials are arrested.

### NOVEMBER

1—Premises of Chandraswami and Ram Lakhan are raided in connection with

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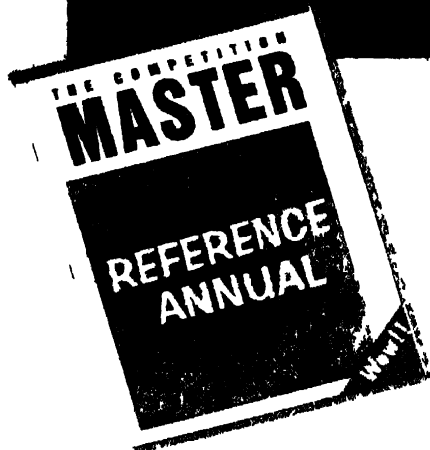
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